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LD221425 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

In a videotaped statement reported by AFP, U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins stressed that his captors' demands must be met if he is to be released. He confirmed that the demands are for Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territories, the release of all Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in Al-Khiyam prison and in all other jails inside "occupied Palestine," and an end to U.S. "intervention" in Lebanon and to the dispatch of U.S. delegations to the Mideast. The "Oppressed on Earth" organization had presented the same demands in an earlier statement which referred to Higgins as a "criminal U.S. snake and agent of the diabolical CIA," and as "one of the most important spies," according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. The organization also issued another statement warning that the ongoing search for Higgins will be futile, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Despite the failure of continued Amal Movement and UNIFIL searches for Higgins over the weekend, Amal officials cited by Voice of Lebanon radio said Amal has "leads on the case" and it knows who masterminded and carried out the abduction. An Amal official told AFP that his men have arrested "accomplices" to the kidnapping whose confessions have helped identify the individuals responsible. While Amal confirmed that it has arrested 8 people in connection with the kidnapping, 2 of them from Hizballah, a Hizballah radio station in Lebanon accused Amal of arresting some 150 Hizballah members since Higgins' abduction, AFP disclosed. In related reports, the Voice of Lebanon spoke of "extreme tension" between Amal and Hizballah, and the station noted that Amal leader Nabih Birri has strongly criticized those who support the kidnapping because Higgins is a U.S. citizen. Birri's criticism contrasted with statements by Hizballah officials denouncing Amal's searches and its concern for the "U.S. spy." The Ba'labakk-based Islamic Amal also criticized Amal's "storming operations" in search of the U.S. hostage, the radio noted.

As for the political motivation for the kidnapping, an Arab diplomatic source cited by Voice of Lebanon viewed it as a warning to Syria by pro-Iranian fundamentalists who are concerned about the possibility of a U.S.-Syrian agreement on Lebanon that will harm their interests.

Israel

Disturbances—Four Arabs were killed and 11 wounded during further disturbances in the occupied territories 20-21 February, Jerusalem radio reported. Most of the casualties were the result of IDF fire against rioters in Nabulus, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, though one Arab was shot dead in an incident that may have involved an unidentified Israeli vehicle. Molotov cocktails were thrown at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem 20 February, the radio noted. Reporting on the situation in the Gaza Strip, the radio said the authorities will rescind plans to deport four residents if the "relative quiet" in the area is maintained. Security forces are continuing to arrest up to 25 people per night in Gaza and the number of detainees in the local Ansar-2 detention camp has risen to over 700, the radio disclosed. Meanwhile, Cairo radio announced that two Palestinian youths were found buried alive in a Gaza Strip beach 21 February. In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that Israeli police are investigating allegations that policemen beat up eight Arabs in a Tel Aviv apartment 19 February.

Commenting on the ongoing unrest, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that it is "not terrorism" but "a civil war waged by women and children, with the help of television," Jerusalem radio noted. Rabin warned that Israel will turn into a "racist" country if it fails to achieve a territorial compromise and continues to control the Palestinians by force. The radio also broadcast remarks by Rabin in which he denied a British press report that the Defense Ministry has commissioned a psychologists' study into the behavior of troops in the territories. According to the SUNDAY TIMES report, as cited by the radio, IDF psychologists found that soldiers have been destroying property and breaking hands and legs even when not in the act of quelling disturbances. Meanwhile, Rabin told the Cabinet 21 February that foreign visitors have "no moral right" to attack the conduct of Israeli soldiers. Visiting British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock had earlier accused Israeli soldiers of firing ammunition banned by international law, but his charges were "flatly denied" by IDF sources, the radio noted.

Preparations for Shultz—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his aides have formulated a position paper which will be presented to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, MA'ARIV reported. The paper contains plans for solving the Palestinian refugee problem, for a comprehensive peace with Jordan, and for Palestinian autonomy. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed that territorial compromise is not a concession, but "salvation" for Israel, Jerusalem television reported. No meeting has thus far been scheduled between Peres and Shamir to coordinate stands for Shultz' visit, the television disclosed.

PLO-Palestinians

Secretary of State Shultz will not meet with "any Palestinian personalities inside our occupied land," a PLO spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio 19 February. Explaining that the PLO's decision in this regard stems from its policy of "confronting the U.S.-Israeli plot" to "liquidate" the Palestinian cause, the spokesman warned that the objective of Shultz' visit is to impose solutions of the "Bantustan" type on the Palestinians. Nevertheless, he added that the PLO does not object to meetings between the U.S. Administration and a PLO delegation containing "prominent personalities from inside and outside the occupied homeland."

Following this statement on the decision to boycott Shultz, the radio warned that the Palestinian people will have "no mercy" on any Palestinian who meets with the secretary of state. The clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio likewise stressed that the Palestinians are capable of preventing Shultz meeting with those who are "begging for capitulatory settlements," and the radio urged Palestinians to demonstrate their "wrath" during his visit. The radio was broadcasting despite interference that caused it to continue switching frequencies over the weekend.

In East Jerusalem, 10 West Bank and Gaza personalities met with U.S. official Wat Cluverius 19 February to hear details of the plan prepared by Shultz, the Amman paper AL-RA'Y reported. Cluverius reportedly explained that Shultz wishes to meet with Palestinian personalities 26 February. Israel's HA'ARETZ disclosed that a number of West Bank and Gaza notables are unhappy with the ban on meeting Shultz and intend to exert heavy pressure on the PLO to get it lifted. The paper noted that this follows reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had earlier authorized a group of Palestinian personalities to meet the secretary of state. However, 'Arafat told Radio Monte Carlo 19 February that "no personalities were entrusted with meeting Shultz," and he said the policy will be to boycott Shultz "unless there is something new."

In another development, WAKH cited a press statement by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf indicating his opposition to any attempt to reconsider the PLO's ban on terrorist attacks against targets outside Israel and the occupied territories. Khalaf said the PLO should not allow itself to be dragged into battles outside the occupied territories as this will be in accordance with Israeli plans to divert attention from the "popular uprising" to "Palestinian terrorism."

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support for the Palestinian "uprising" and its rejection of "separate and partial solutions" during a 20 February meeting with Khalid al-Fahum, Colonel Sa'id Musa, Ahmad Jibril, and other PNSF officials, Damascus radio reported. Criticizing remarks by George Shultz on Soviet participation in the Mideast peace process, a Damascus radio commentary said there is no U.S. trusteeship over the region and the United States has "no right to decide who should participate in the peace process." In another development, WAKH cited a UAE press report that Al-Asad intends to visit the USSR in March.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince 'Abdallah, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who delivered a message from King Husayn to King Fahd, SPA reported 21 February. The Jordanian premier also held closed-door talks with Prince 'Abdallah and the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Earlier the Jordanian information minister told Radio Monte Carlo that Al-Rifa'i planned to hold consultations on coordinating Arab viewpoints to be presented during the Shultz visit to the region.

On the same day, the crown prince also received Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov, who delivered a reply to King Fahd's message to the UN Security Council members on behalf of the GCC leaders, Riyadh radio reported, adding that the king's message dealt with the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian cause. Polyakov and the Saudi foreign minister met to discuss issues of mutual interest, the radio added.

Sudan

The Sudanese Armed Forces and soldiers of Anyanya II repelled attacks on relief barges bound for Malakal 19 and 20 February, National Unity Radio reported. The government soldiers killed a total of 105 rebels and wounded a "very large number," including a "European" whom the rebels subsequently threw into the Nile. Aboard the barges, which continued upriver, one civilian was killed and six wounded. The clandestine SPLA radio had previously reported "heavy fighting" during which seven barges were "destroyed," including two "completely sunk."

Egypt

"Egyptian Interpol men" have asked Yugoslavia to apprehend and extradite Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir to stand trial for capital offenses in the Egypt's Revolution case, MENA reported, citing the 20 February AL-AHRAM. According to AFP, Al-Nasir told SAWT AL-'ARAB that he is willing to return to Egypt to face the charges because he has "full confidence in Egyptian justice."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes carried out a "destructive" raid on a bridge north of Andimeshk 21 February, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The bridge at Keshvar was used by Iran for military purposes, the communique said.

For Iran's part, a communique cited by IRNA reported an Iranian air strike the same day on Iraqi positions in border areas opposite Faqqeh.

Iran

Consultations With Pakistan—President 'Ali Khamene'i received Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar, who conveyed "warm greetings" from Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and briefed Khamene'i on the developments in the Afghan issue, IRNA reported 22 February. In remarks cited by the agency, Khamene'i noted the "deep-rooted ties" among the three nations, and he reiterated Iran's emphasis on the Afghan mujahidin's role in determining their country's future.

Executions Ordered—The Supreme Judicial Council ordered the execution of seven people convicted of responsibility for a Tehran car bomb which killed and wounded several people, Tehran radio announced 21 February, adding that the "corrupt minigroup" had acted under orders from Iraqi intelligence. In Orumiyeh a second "booby trap bomb" found in a shopping bag abandoned in a busy area was defused 20 Februray, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet Army Honored—A monument to Soviet-Afghan friendship was unveiled 21 February on the occasion of Soviet Army Day, Kabul radio reported. In remarks carried by the radio, President Najibullah praised the "limited Soviet contingent" in Afghanistan for extending its "helping hands of fraternity" to share "military, political, and tactical experience" as well as to build roads and bridges and render medical assistance. Noting that his country is experiencing a "sensitive stage," Najibullah declared that the Afghans will be ever grateful for Soviet efforts toward the "political normalization of military conflicts in Afghanistan."

Herat Fighting—Fighting around the western city of Herat "intensified" after Soviet and Afghan soldiers arrested "many civilians" in a hunt for those responsible for the 15 February bombing of a movie theater, AFP disclosed 19 February, citing an AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS report. The casualty toll in the bombing reached 30 dead and some 100 wounded, the agency noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Ministerial Committee Meets on 'Uprising'

Jordan's Al-Masri Arrives

JN191648 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Tunis this afternoon to participate in the meetings of the ministerial committee entrusted with drawing up a joint Arab action plan to implement the Arab resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict. It was also entrusted with following up the developments of the popular uprising in the occupied territories. The committee will begin its work in Tunis tomorrow.

It is noteworthy that the committee was formed during the Arab League Council emergency session held in Tunis on 23 January, which was dedicated to discussing the situation resulting from the uprising and ways to support it.

Iraq's 'Aziz Holds Meetings

JN201549 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a series of meetings with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri here today. During their meeting, Tariq 'Aziz and Yasir 'Arafat reviewed ways to support the uprising in the occupied territories, steps to be taken by the Arabs in this regard, and the exposure of the Zionist entity's schemes.

During his meeting with Chedli Klibi, 'Aziz touched on developments in the uprising in the occupied territories and the Iraq-Iran war.

Tariq 'Aziz and Tahir al-Masri also discussed the Iraq-Iran war, the required Arab move at the current stage, and ways to support the uprising in the occupied territories.

Tariq 'Aziz is currently visiting Tunis to attend the meetings of the Arab committee entrusted with the task of following up the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Masri, 'Arafat Hold Talks

JN211814 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis last night. They discussed national issues of mutual interest.

'Aziz Departs for Beijing

JN202113 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2057 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Tunis tonight for Beijing on an official visit to the PRC that will last several days.

During the visit, 'Aziz will hold talks with the PRC officials on bilateral relations, the necessary measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war, and the continuation of the Iranian regime's aggression against Iraq, which threatens world peace and security.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Reaction to Upcoming Shultz Visit

PLO Denial of Meeting

JN191850 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] In a statement to the Palestine news agency, WAFA, an official PLO spokesman in Tunis has stressed that no Palestinian figure from the occupied land will meet with George Shultz during his upcoming visit to Israel. Any Palestinian delegation charged with meeting with U.S. or other officials of UN Security Council member states must comprise personnel from inside and outside the occupied territory, the spokesman added. AL-SANNARAH, a Nazareth-based newspaper, reported yesterday that Yasir 'Arafat has chosen seven Palestinian figures from the occupied territory to see Shultz.

PLO Spokesman on Visit

JN192018 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1847 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Commenting on the visit U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz intends to pay to the region, including a visit to the occupied Palestinian territories, an official spokesman for the PLO has stated the following:

The PLO announces there will not be a meeting between the U.S. secretary and any Palestinian personalities inside our occupied land, stemming from the one Palestinian stand in confronting the U.S.-Israeli plot which wants to liquidate our people's cause and our masses' blessed uprising. This plot aims at ignoring the Palestinian people and the unity of this people inside and outside the occupied homeland. The U.S. Administration cannot deceive our people with such an exposed game, especially since the objective of Shultz' visit to the region is imposing solutions similar to the bantustan, or joint rule, in South Africa and ignoring the Palestinian people's national, inalienable rights recognized by international resolutions and approved by international legitimacy.

Stemming from its nationalist responsibility, the PLO does not object to a Palestinian meeting with the U.S. Administration or any other UN Security Council member state and to forming a delegation for such meetings. As the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO takes into consideration, as it has always done, the existence of prominent personalities from inside and otuside the occupied homeland in such delegations. This stand of ours expresses a genuine desire toward peace by the Palestinian people and their leadership.

If the U.S. Administration is really concerned about peace and about responding to international will, peace cannot be achieved through partial or separate solutions, or through ignoring national Palestinian rights. Peace can be achieved through ending the occupation and convening an international conference within the United Nations and with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent member states and the parties concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing with other parties. This is to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East crisis.

'Arafat on Visit, 'Uprising'

JN192147 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, in Geneva by Editor in Chief Antoine Abu Samrah on 19 February carried within the "Panorama" program—live or recorded]

[Text] Abu 'Ammar, today was an historic and very exhausting day. When you began your address to the United Nations in Geneva the U.S. delegation walked out.

['Arafat] With the Israeli delegation, Antoine. This is not the first time the U.S. delegation has done this.

[Abu Samrah] Were the U.S. and Israeli delegations the only ones to walk out or were there other delegations?

['Arafat] Only the U.S. and Israeli delegations. We are accustomed to this. We always receive Mr Shultz' gifts.

[Abu Samrah] Abu 'Ammar, you called for boycotting Shultz' visit to the region. Some reports said that some Palestinian personalities were entrusted with meeting with Shultz. What is the truth?

['Arafat] No personalities were entrusted with meeting Shultz. However, when my brothers Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah traveled to the United States to attend this conference [not further specified] they were contacted to meet with officials at the Department of State, including Mr Shultz and Mr Murphy. We did not object to this in order to put Shultz and Murphy in the picture of the crimes being committed against our people, especially at a time when the U.S. Administration insisted on using the veto to defend Israel while the UN secretary general was presenting his report on the situation in the occupied territoreis.

As for now, the emergency committee met yesterday and decided that we are not against meeting with any of the UN Security council permanent member states. This is because we say an international conference must be attended by the UN Security Council permanent member states. However, these meetings must take place through a Palestinian delegation formed by the PLO. Undoubtedly, as is customary for us regarding delegations, we include some of our brothers and leaders from inside and outside the occupied homeland in delegations we send anywhere. This is the stand that was agreed upon yesterday by the emergency committee.

[Abu Samrah] This means you do not expect a meeting by any Palestinian personality with George Shultz during his visit to the region?

['Arafat] I believe this is the stand on the meeting unless there is something new. We are not rigid. However, we always deal with issues concerning our cause with an open mind and in the interest of our Palestinian people.

[Abu Samrah] Abu 'Ammar, can I conclude that you expect nothing from Shultz' visit to the region?

['Arafat] What have we been presented with? We have been presented with an administrative rule, a civilian self-rule, a condominium, or bandustans. He wants to fool us by saying new elections. Does he want the tragedy of my brothers the elected mayors and memebrs of muncipality councils to be repeated? Some of them were killed. My Brother Bassam had his legs cut off. Some were injured like my late Brother Karim Khalaf, and others deported like my brothers Muhammad Milhim and martyr Fahd al-Qwaqsimi. Others were dismissed from their jobs and replaced.

Shall we accept being an experimental field for the U.S. Administration? In Beirut we were an experimental field for their advanced weapons like the concussion bomb, the vacuum bomb, fragmentation shells, and the gas bombs. [preceding words beginning with "concussion" in English] Does Shultz want to make us an experimental field for his respectful, or actually not very respectful, political ideas?

[Abu Samrah] It has been repeatedly said that Shultz' objective in the area is perhaps to contain the uprising. However, the uprising is continuing. Do you expect the uprising to continue during and after Shultz' visit?

['Arafat] George Shultz must understand that we fully understand the situation. He and those around him in the U.S. Administration want to contain and control the uprising in Israel's favor. That is what President Reagan said to many of his visitors. I do not want to name the visitors whom Reagan met when Reagan expressed great concern for Israel because of the uprising. However, I want to say to them that the uprising will remain unshaken. There is a decision from the top to the youngest child—even the infant suckling has made a decision—to continue the uprising. In one hospital, the Dar al-Shifa' hospital [in Gaza], there were 25, 17, and 6, that is, 48 abortions.

Even the fetuses in their mother's wombs are fighting. There is a decision to continue the uprising, wave after wave, wave after wave. I say this so everyone will hear me, be they in the Arab region, in the Middle East, or anywhere in the world: The uprising will continue, wave after wave, God willing, until the occupation ends and the Palestinian flag is hoisted in Jerusalem. That is the pledge and the vow. A pledge is a pledge and a vow is a vow, Antoine.

[Abu Samrah] Abu 'Ammar, do you not expect anything positive from Shultz' visit to the region?

['Arafat] Yes, I expect Shultz will try to carry out new maneuvers and will try to exert pressure on some states friendly to him in the area. Exactly just as he exerted pressure on them to dry up the PLO's sources of financing and just as he exerted pressure on our people to harass them at ports and airports. It is part of the suffering. However, our people are a people of miracles. "There are very strong people in it." [Koranic verse citing what the Jews said to Moses]

[Abu Samrah] Thank you, Abu 'Ammar.

['Arafat] Together until victory, God willing. Look, Antoine, from the day the Palestinian Jesus Christ was on the road to Golgotha carrying his cross, our people have been proceeding toward victory and will continue toward victory.

[Abu Samrah] Thank you, Abu 'Ammar.

PLO, DFLP Call for Boycott

JN211757 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is slated to arrive in Israel in the middle of the week. Today he held lengthy talks in Moscow with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. Not much has been reported about these talks so far.

Israel radio today began to suggest that some Palestinian figures will agree to meet with Shultz during his stay in Jerusalem. The radio reported that a U.S. official, Wat Cluverius, has met with some Palestinian personages in an attempt to persuade them to meet with Shultz.

However, the PLO today deliberately emphasized its stand which calls for boycotting Shultz by all Palestinian personages. This morning Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said the PLO Executive Committee made a decision on 19 Febraury on boycotting the visit.

This evening, Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's information adviser, emphasized that the Palestinian decision is to fully boycott Shultz. He said the U.S. Administration that is trying to circumvent the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory is the same administration that supports the Israeli Government and covers its actions against the Palestinian people. Abu Sharif recalled the veto recently exercised by Washington at the UN Security Council to abort a new resolution that condemned Israel in light of a report submitted to the Security Council by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah today appealed to Palestinian personages in the occupied territory to completely boycott Shultz and to refuse to meet with him. [passage omitted]

Al-Quds Broadcasts 'Appeal'

JN201553 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1424 GMT 20 Feb 88

["Appeal" to Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories by Al-Quds Radio—read by announcer]

[Text] O struggler brothers: Mr George Shultz should know, feel, and hear the voice of our heroes in Palestine, all of Palestine. Struggler brothers, the staff of Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, invites you, O our heroes, O heroic women of Palestine, O hero men of Palestine, O hero youths of Palestine, O workers of Palestine, merchants of Palestine, peasants of Palestine, and intellectuals of Palestine, O drivers of Palestine, O engineers of Palestine, O writers of Palestine, O trade unions of Palestine, to show your strength, the strength of your uprising, the strength of our great people in the face of Shultz. The United States is the origin and the Zionist authorities are the branch. Let the origin and branch understand the strength of our people.

Prevention of Meeting Urged

JN201614 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1426 GMT 20 Feb 88

["Appeal" to Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories by Al-Quds Radio—read by announcer]

[Text] O our kinfolk in Palestine, we are fully confident you are capable of preventing those who are begging for capitulatory settlements from speaking on your behalf and from meeting with Shultz. Let Shultz hear the voice of the people and their wrath in the streets, camps, cities, villages, churches, and mosques. As for those who are seeking to meet with him, we are aware that you are capable of preventing them. God is with us, victory is near, and we are together along the path of liberating the land and man.

Al-Quds Radio Urges Action

JN201620 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1432 GMT 20 Feb 88

["Appeal" to Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories by Al-Quds Radio staff—read by announcer]

[Text] O our brothers, O our kinfolk: The staff of Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, calls on you, calls on everyone of you, to raise his voice and show his wrath in the face of George Shultz, the envoy of the imperialists who are trying to circumvent your heroic and tumultuous popular revolution. God is with us, victory is near, and we are together on the path of liberating the land and man.

Warning on Meeting Issued

JN201949 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1916 GMT 20 Feb 88

["Appeal" to Palestinians in the occupied territories—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, Call, call to our struggler masses and our gigantic people: The masses of our people have decided to boycott U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit. Therefore, we warn those who seek to meet with Shultz. Woe unto he who meets with the Zionist Shultz. Our people will have no mercy on anyone who deviates from the will of our giant people. Revolution until victory!

Boycott of Shultz Viewed

JN212147 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1919 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will come once again to the region to play the same old tune, which our people know well. Shultz says he carries a new peace plan, but he finds no one who believes him. This is proved by the fact that Shultz does not clearly and decisively announce the details of his new plan. He only gives general points, which turn out to be an extension of the ill-reputed Camp David accords. At best, Shultz' new plan is only a variation of the defunct Reagan plan. This plan is actually a rotten fish meant to be cooked in spoiled oil, as described by the commander of the revolution and the people, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

As we, the Palestinians, realize this fact, Shultz will return to Washington emptyhanded as usual. This will continue to be the case as long as Shultz keeps wagering on the possibility of circumventing the Palestinians, their legitimate rights, and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Strictly speaking, this clearly means Shultz will not meet with any of the Palestinian national personalities who refuse to hold talks with him. This is the decision of the PLO, of the unified national leadership of the uprising, and of the Palestinian national personalities.

This definitive national decision was made not only to embody the Palestinian rejection of the U.S. Administration's tricks, maneuvers, and conspiracies but also to embody the unity of the Palestinian national stand inside and outside the occupied homeland, which is the most important issue. This decision was also made to embody firm confidence in the patriotism of our kinfolk and our people inside the occupied homeland, who will once again slap Shultz in the face following the known blow dealt to him when our kinfolk let Shultz down at a Jerusalem hotel.

Undoutedly, our people's unanimity on boycotting Shultz carries a clear message to the U.S. Administration and to the whole world to the effect that the U.S. maneuvers and the so-called plans that Shultz and his enovys carry are only aimed at aborting both our people's struggle and their brave uprising by proposing solutions based on the Camp David accords and on circumventing our people's struggle, their legitimate rights, and their continuous uprising, which seeks to end occupation, achieve freedom and independence for our people, and liberate our country.

While our heroic people, under their national leadership, adopt the firm decision to boycott Shultz, they do not declare their absolute rejection of any meeting or any contacts with any envoy whatsoever, even those of the U.S. Administration. However, our people have always made it clear that any contacts must be based on the following facts: First, realizing and recognizing the fact that the Paletinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland are a unified people under the PLO's banner and leadership and that their unity cannot be divided; second, the key to any contacts is held by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our heroic people; third, the PLO's decision made at any meetings between our people's representatives inside and outside the occupied homeland will strongly and undoubtedly curb the arbitrary attempts at fragmentation by both the U.S. Administration and some Arab parties. Such a decision reaffirms our people's firm unity and the impossibility of dividing it.

Finally, this stand is being declared by our people as a clear message about the way to deal with our people. This message is addressed to the whole world to immediately tackle the Palestine question as the cause of a people, of a homeland, and of just, legitimate, and inalienable rights. These rights are always led by the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital forever.

Wat Cluverius Meets With 10 Palestinians
JN220823 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Feb 88 pp 1, 28

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—A meeting was held Friday afternoon between Wat Cluverius, assistant to Richard Murphy, and 10 West Bank and Gaza personalities. They are: Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem; Hanna al-Atrash, mayor of Bayt Sahur; Dr Yasir 'Ubayd; Lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah; Lawyer 'Isam al-Shawwa; Eng Khalid al-Qutb; Dr Muhammad Siyam, president of the Islamic University; 'Awn al-Shawwa; Sa'id Kan'an; and Sami Abu Salim from Dayr al- Balah.

During this meeting, Cluverius explained part of the plan which was prepared by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, noting that Shultz intends to solve the Palestine question and that events witnessed by the occupied territories have imposed themselves on the political arena and must be exploited politically.

According to the newspaper AL-QUDS which is published in occupied Jerusalem, Cluverius claimed that Egypt and Jordan have agreed in principle to the Shultz plan and are awaiting the details. He also said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is the only one wagering on the Palestinian "no" so the plan would fail.

Cluverius said Shultz wishes to hold a meeting with Palestinian personalities next Friday. He said the U.S. Administration hopes that such a meeting would take place to thrash out the details of the Shultz plan. As for the details of the Shultz plan, Cluverius has summed them up to the personalities he met with in the following seven points:

1. On the day the Palestinians agree to the U.S. plan, a transitional period lasting 6 months only shall begin. During this period, the Israeli military and civil administrations shall withdraw and the sons of the Palestinian people would assume the rights of legislation, taxation, health, education, and agricultural affairs as well as other matters.

2. Elections would be held in the West Bank and Gaza to produce a council for administering Arab affairs.

3. With the expiriy of the 6-month period, direct negotiations shall be held through an international conference in which all parties to the conflict shall take part, including Palestinians, to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza, provided that the period of these negotiations is fixed at 3 years only at the maximum.

4. The negotiations shall be held on the basis of Security Council Resolution (242) and in accordance with the U.S. and Egyptian interpretation which provides for the principle of "territories in exchange for peace."

5. It is understood that full Arab sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza shall be imposed after the Israeli withdrawal from them.

6. Regarding the city of Jerusalem, in view of its complicated problem, its subject shall be deferred to a later stage. However, it is clear that the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall have the right to cast their votes in the elections like the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

7. Palestinian representation in the negotiations of the final stage shall be within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation provided that the Palestinians are chosen by the PLO. However, these representatives shall not be official members of the PLO.

Cluverius said the train of the peace process has taken off and whoever is left behind would be the loser. Regarding the Soviet role, Cluverius told the personalities he met with that there will be a Soviet role.

Cluverius concluded his meeting with the Palestinian personalities by saying: There will be a declaration of principles during Shultz' meeting with the Palestinians if the PLO approved such a meeting. As for the Camp David and self-rule stage, that is over.

As for the right to self-determination, the Palestinians must not request that from the United States and Israel, but should be on the basis of an agreement between the Palestinian and Arab parties concerned.

'Arafat Denies Iran Behind 'Uprising'
LD220956 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT
22 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 22 (KUNA)—The PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat Monday regretted the inadequate Arab response to the popular uprising in occupied Palestine declaring that patronization of the Palestinian cause is over and that the Palestinians alone will determine their own fate.

The Americans and the Israelis are looking for a solution to impose on the Arabs, he was quoted as saying but warned that "the era of patronization is over and those who decide peace on Palestine are the Palestinians."

Interviewed in Tunis by the Kuwait daily AL-QABAS, the PLO leader was very bitter at the Arab response to the uprising in occupied Palestine which is well into the third month now saying none other than Kuwait and Iraq offered financial assistance to the uprising.

"I defy anyone who says they paid one fils other than the five million dollars from Kuwait and three million dollars from Iraq through the United Nations to the families of the martyrs," he charged.

In this connection, 'Arafat flatly denied Iran's claims that it was behind the uprising against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the Arab-Israeli war of 1967.

How could Iran be the force behind the uprising when the Christians called off the Christmas celebrations and on the seventh of this month staged massive demonstrations from the churches protesting the Israeli occupation and offering a Christian martyr in Gaza two days ago, 'Arafat asked.

The PLO leader said in the interview which is also carried today by the Paris-based weekly KULL AL-'ARAB (ALL THE ARABS) that he was, just the same, confident of the triumph of the uprising in ending the occupation and establishing the independent state. He said the uprising is paralleled by political endeavour on all levels including the U.N., the Security Council, the socialist bloc and the European community in addition to the friendly countries to achieve the aspired-for goal.

Asked whether he thought the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East will convene despite Israel's opposition, he said the Israeli society is undergoing changes demonstrated by declared rejection of the occupation by a great many Israeli officers, soldiers and civilians alike.

"We have been waging a war of attrition in south Lebanon since the Israeli invasion in 1982 and have won not by knockout but by points," 'Arafat said, adding the Israelis themselves have admitted that "the Palestinians have discovered the weak points in Israel and are utilising them to the maximum."

He said that 40 percent of Israel's army is engaged in quelling the uprising and quoted Israel's army radio as saying that it is taking three times the number of soldiers that invaded the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 to patrol the regions now.

The PLO leader said that the occupied territories began to boil under the feet of the Israelis in October of last year when Israel started adopting "the ironfist policy." Concurrently with that policy, an American-Israeli plan known as "the London Paper" was being drawn up to incriminate Arab parties in a condominium rule of the occupied territories, he said.

'Arafat said that despite heated efforts by the Americans and the Israelis to come up with "quick solutions to absorb and abort the uprising, the waves of uprising will continue one wave after the other until the occupation ends."

But he ruled out any intention to use arms in retaliation for stepped up Israeli use of firearms in quelling the uprising, arguing that the Israelis have more weapons and can massacre all villages and camps.

However, 'Arafat said in reply to an Israeli warning not to use firearms that "we will determine the type of weapons we use in each phase of our confrontation and resistance of our Israeli enemy."

Al-Wazir Cited on Israeli Flights Over Sudan

JN211029 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has confirmed the news regarding reconnaissance flights by squadrons of Israeli enemy planes over a number of Palestinian bases in Sudan and other Arab states.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, Khalil al-Wazir said that one of these Israeli squadrons comprised 12 planes. He said the Isaeli military command continues to make preparations for conducting similar aerial reconnaissance operations. Khalil al-Wazir predicted that the Israeli enemy would carry out further assassinations of some Palestinian leaders and said these assassination operations would be similar to the Cyprus operation which resulted in the killing of three resistance cadres. [passage omitted]

Al-Quds Radio Views Reasons for 'Jamming'

JN191518 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1455 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Why do you fear the truth? Do you fear it because it is carried by Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, which is a truth that you are not accustomed to hearing? Why do the Zionist authorities jam this station? Is it because it instigates? Is it because it tries to connect the Palestinian camps, towns, and villages? Is it because it broadcasts the names of the martyrs, the wounded, and the detainees? Is this the real cause for jamming our radio?

The staff of Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, says this is untrue, that it is just the opposite. Our proof is that there are several stations in many languages which hardly mention this. [sentence as heard]

The real cause is the following: The Zionist authorities claim to be a unique democratic oasis in the Middle East. It presents itself to America and Europe as the only democratic government in the region. It deceives its own society by saying that it is a democracy and by harping on this word. It is forcing its society to live in a state of a veto against the media. It does not allow the truth to be said. It does not allow this society to hear another voice.

This veto against the media is filling the ears and blinding the eyes. The veto controls the media which is supervised by experts who control your minds. Through their government media, they practice lies and lead you to believe these lies are a fact necessitated by the veto. Let us take a few examples:

Edmond Sehayek, the director of the government radio, explained why people are losing faith in his radio by saying that it does not take interest in the Palestinian people's uprising. He said the government radio and television lost their credibility because of the interest in Al-Quds Radio which carries true news about the uprising. (Nikolas Tatro), of the government radio and a representative of its veto on the media, has said the jamming operation against Al-Quds Radio costs millions of dollars because this radio makes many lies.

Whom should we believe, the director or his subordinate? This is up to you. However, Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, invites you to listen to the voice of the truth. You should only compare. Al-Quds Radio exposed the fake democracy and, therefore, the Zionist authorities resorted to spending millions of dollars to jam it. Al-Quds Radio invites you to see the truth. It is time you defied the media veto and the obscurantism of the Zionist government radio.

Chad

Ndjamena Doubtful of Habre-Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting

AU191843 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Paris, Feb 19 (AFP)—Chad is sceptical about a proposed meeting between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Chadian President Hissein Habre prior to an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit on the Chad-Libyan conflict, Chadian sources said here Friday. Earlier Friday, reports from Libreville said that Gabon planned to host a meeting between the two leaders that would also be attended by Gabonese President Omar Bongo and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Reliable Chadian sources in Paris said Ndjamena had received an invitation to the proposed meeting when an Algerian envoy visited Chad on January 11. President Bongo had reportedly been charged with persuading Ndjamena and President Chadli with persuading Tripoli of the benefits of a meeting prior to the OAU summit.

The heads of the member states of the OAU committee charged with seeking a solution to the Chad-Libyan territorial conflict are scheduled to meet at Dakar in April.

But Ndjamena remained suspicious about the motives and framework for the proposed meeting, Chadian sources in Paris said.

It suspected the proposal was a maneuvre by Tripoli to "bypass the OAU and step up its military preparations for a new offensive," they added. [passage omitted]

Habre, Al-Mahdi Reportedly To Meet 'Soon'

AB200922 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0730 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Chadian President Hissein Habre will soon meet with Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi in order to discuss tension on the common border of their two countries, it has been learned. The date and venue of this meeting are not yet known. It is common knowledge that Chad has accused Sudan of allowing the Libyan Army to use its territory to stage attacks against Ndjamena forces in the east of Chad.

Briefs

Roving Ambassador Nominated

The president of the Republic, Mr El Hadj Hissein Habre, has nominated Mr Abdel Kader Yassir as the roving ambassador of Chad by presidential decree signed today. [Summary] [*Ndjamena domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Feb 88 AB*]

Egypt

UN's Goulding Arrives, Makes Statement

NC212240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Marrack Goulding, UN undersecretary general for political affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening on a 2-day visit, as part of his current tour of the Middle East.

During his visit Goulding will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on recent developments in the Middle East.

Upon his arrival, Goulding said the purpose of his tour of the area is to acquaint himself with the views of the concerned governments in the region and to consult with them so as to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

Goulding noted that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's view on such a solution is completely identical to President Husni Mubarak's proposals, which call for convening an international conference for peace as a basis for resolving this issue.

The UN undersecretary general said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories has created a new factor that should prompt Israel to reconsider the current situation.

Goulding added that the uprising has demonstrated the Palestinian people's insistence on continuing their struggle to attain their legitimate rights.

During his current tour, Goulding met with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

It is worth noting that Goulding's tour complements a tour he had undertaken last January, during which he visited the occupied territories.

GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Begins Visit

Notes UN Positions

NC201951 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Peter Florin, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs and current president of the UN General Assembly, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a 3-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

During his visit, Florin will hold meetings with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

On his arrival, Florin stated that the UN General Assembly expresses the views of the majority of the member countries, noting that the Assembly has condemned Israeli terrorism and voiced strong support for the Palestinian people's struggle to attain their right to self-determination.

Florin pointed out that the General Assembly supports the holding of an international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East and attain a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. All concerned parties would attend such a conference, he said.

Florin praised President Husni Mubarak's initiative in this respect and described it as good.

Florin said relations between Egypt and the GDR have witnessed extensive and favorable progress with the goal of serving the interests of both countries.

Talks With Al-Mahjub

NC211221 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub received today Peter Florin, current president of the UN General Assembly and GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is visiting Egypt. The meeting was also attended by GDR Ambassador to Cairo Wolfgang Schuessler.

Discussions dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East and the UN role in solving the problems. Talks also included boosting and strengthening cooperation between Egypt and the United Nations in various fields.

The German ambassador renewed the invitation to Dr al-Mahjub to visit the GDR parliament.

Florin arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 3-day visit at the invitation of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Confers With 'Abd al-Majid

NC211346 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—During a meeting today Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Peter Florin, current president of the UN General Assembly and GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, reviewed cooperation between Egypt and the United Nations regarding the Middle East issue and the Palestinian question.

After the meeting, Florin said that the positions of Egypt and the United Nations on the Middle East and Palestinian issues are identical. He noted that UN resolutions condemn Israel's arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab land. He stressed that concerted efforts must promote the peace process and arrive at a just and peaceful settlement to all the region's problems. He described Egypt's efforts to give momentum to the peace process as positive and effective, and voiced his hope that they will lead to good results and help establish a just peace in the region. Florin arrived in Cairo yesterday evening for a 3-day visit.

Turkish Chief of Staff Arrives on 1-Week Visit

NC201936 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Turkish Chief of Staff General Necip Torumtay arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official week-long visit. He is scheduled to meet with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, to discuss ways of strengthening military cooperation. The Turkish general was received at Cairo Airport by Major General Faruq 'Abd al-'Azim, commander of the Central District.

Military Talks Start 21 Feb

NC211124 Cairo MENA in English 1115 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 21 (MENA)—Turkish-Egyptian military negotiations opened here this morning under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces and his Turkish counterpart General Necip Torumtay.

A private meeting between Abu Shinaf and Torumtay preceded the session that was attended by members of the two countries at the premises of the Defense Ministry in Al-Nasr city.

The Turkish chief of staff said following the session of negotiations that lasted for 90 minutes that it dealt with military cooperation between the two countries particularly in the domain of manufacture of defence equipment.

The Egyptian and Turkish sides agreed to discuss training between the two countries later on.

Abu Shinaf said that agreements were reached on the exchange of visits between officials of the two countries and joint exercises which Egypt was prepared to carry out with any Arab or friendly country as this would benefit the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Ghali Interviewed on Palestinians, Gulf War

LD201024 Kuwait KUNA in English 0813 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 20 (KUNA)—Egyptian Foreign Affairs Minister [of State] Butrus Ghali said in an interview published on Saturday the uprising in the occupied territories was the answer to Israel's rule of terror and repression and that the protests caught the Jewish state in the trap of violence.

By trying to quell the uprising ruthlessly, Israel is in reality fueling the uprising which vented long bottled-up fury of the oppressed Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, Ghali told Kuwaiti Daily AL-ANBA' in the interview.

Serving Israel a reminder, the Egyptian minister said; "Israel's tragedy lies in the fact that it's an occupation state. It has no other option but to recognize the Palestinian reality and give Palestinians the right to self-determination.

Prescribing a remedy for the festering problem of the occupied territories, Ghali said "the only solution is to act—as fast as could be—to halt the sufferings of Palestinians and prevent aggressions on them and then to resume the peace march to settle the conflict in the region."

Asked why Cairo has backed down on the idea of withdrawing its ambassador to Tel Aviv as it has threatened to do in the first two weeks of the uprising, the minister said "under the circumstances the presence of the Egyptian ambassador is perhaps more useful than his absence."

According to Ghali, recalling the ambassador would be a "mere passive act of limited value."

With an Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, Cairo's diplomacy can be active on more fronts than one and can deal with all parties including Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, he added.

Nevertheless, the Egyptian minister underscored his country's support for the Palestinians' cause and their legitimate rights, saying Egypt was always ready to bear its responsibilities as "the beating heart" of the Arab nation.

Asked if he believed the uprising has had an impact on the political map of the region, Ghali noted that the explosive protests in the West Bank and Gaza were "a revolution proper" which once again brought the Palestinian question to the international limelight.

The uprising, he added, was also heralding far-reaching changes inside the Israeli society and would have a formidable impact on the Middle East peace process itself.

"It could also force Israeli leaders, who have adamantly refused to recognize the legitimate rights of Palestinians, to ask questions they have long tried to avoid asking," the Egyptian official said.

He indicated that the uprising has been a severe headache for Israel first because the young stone-throwing Palestinians won international sympathy and because the Jewish state found itself in an internal political problem, with an arab population refusing to live under occupation.

The uprising and the unprecedented Israeli violence and repression against Palestinians have all the more underscored the need for an international conference on Middle East peace, Ghali said.

"Its a solution that cannot wait," he said in reference to the international parley.

Responding to a query on the Gulf war, the other flaming Middle East issue, Ghali believed the Iran-Iraq war was a by-product of the failure of international efforts to resolve the arab-Israeli conflict.

He said Iran had benefited from the state of disarray in the Arab world to prolong its war with Iraq.

He deplored that the Gulf conflict has grown out of proporation, developing from a war between two countries to a regional problem closely associated with the superpower conflict.

The Egyptian minister said whether or not Iran accepted U.N. Security Council ceasefire order, Arab countries must put "public and tangible" pressure on Iran as to deepen Tehran's international isolation.

Shultz' Forthcoming Regional Tour Examined

Must Bring 'Something New'

NC200712 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper expresses hope that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' talks in Moscow will produce positive results to promote Middle East peace.

In Saturday's edition, the paper says that Shultz' visit to the Soviet Union is a positive development in the U.S. stand on an international peace conference and Soviet participation in it.

The explosive situation in the region and its repercussions, the paper says, indeed cannot tolerate any cover-ups or maneuverings. Therefore, Shultz' visit to Moscow must bring about something new and interesting.

The paper notes the continuous shift in the positions of Israel's friends and the advice they are giving to the Israeli Government with the support of a large portion of the Israeli public opinion. The last one of these, the paper adds, is former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who warned Israeli leaders that failure to reach a lasting settlement in the region will lead to a catastrophe for Israel.

In conclusion, the paper wonders whether Israel will understand the lesson and respond to the honest efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Importance of Moscow Talks Seen

NC201915 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Will Washington and Moscow Indeed Move to Promote the Peace Process in the Middle East?"]

[Text] Political observers world-wide will look to Moscow tomorrow, where U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, will begin talks. Shultz will also meet with Soviet leader Gorbachev. We think the success or failure of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks may affect several regional and international issues for a long time. Since the meeting tomorrow was originally scheduled to prepare for the forthcoming U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in Moscow in May, we are wondering why the three important regional issues that threaten world security and stability and directly concern the two superpowers are high on the agenda. These issues are the situation in the Middle East, the Gulf War, and the Afghanistan problem, as well as disarmament and human rights.

What primarily concerns us is the possibility that Shultz' talks in Moscow will result in agreement between the two superpowers to take action to promote the peace process in the Middle East through the convening of an international conference under the UN aegis. What prompts us to nurture this belief are statements by official U.S. sources that Shultz will try to gain Soviet support for the recent U.S. initiative or ideas to resolve the Palestinian issue, the crux of the conflict in the Middle East.

The importance of Shultz' talks in Moscow become all the more clear in light of the following considerations:

1. Shultz' visit to Moscow comes a few days before his visits to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and perhaps Syria in the first U.S. move at the highest level for a long time to break the deadlock in the Middle East. The U.S. moves are considered a direct result of Egypt's peace initiative, the serious situation in the occupied Arab territories, and graver eventualities in the future.

2. Shultz' visit to Moscow comes at the beginning of a new stage of international detente, the foundations of which were laid at the latest meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev in Washington. We believe both parites will try to at least maintain this detente if not promote it to further the disarmament agreement.

3. Shultz' talks come at a time when Soviet diplomacy has resumed its active role in the Middle East, after a long absence that gave Washington the opportunity to be the only party dealing with the region's issues. In addition, when Shultz presents the U.S. initiative, he will not forget that there has been a Soviet overture that primarily emphasizes the need for convening an international conference, for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and for the establishment of a free Palestinian state. This will not allow Washington to endorse Israel's intransigent view that rejects peace.

4. The new U.S. initiative during the election year is a positive development in the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue. We hear for the first time from Washington about the principle of territory in exchange for peace. In addition, we have the stand of Western Europe, Washington's strong ally, which supports the Palestinian people's legitiamte rights, not to mention the consistent world-wide condemnation of Israel's actions against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This may prompt Washington to reconsider its policy as it is a partner in the peace process.

5. Washington is seeking to soften the Soviet stand that rejects imposing a ban on arms exports to Iran, and their stand on the problem of Soviet Jewish emigration. This prompts observers to believe that the talks in Moscow may lead to a change in both countries' views on regional issues.

If we add to the aforementioned Washington's and Moscows' direct interests in the Arab region and their concern about regaining their credibility, will all the above factors prompt both parties to take practical steps to find a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East?

Unified Arab Stand Stressed

NC192047 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "The Importance of Recognizing the Palestinian People's Right To Take Part in Any Solution"]

[Text] The most prominent result of the rebellious Palestinian people's angry outburst in the West Bank and Gaza is that the Palestinian issue has emerged from the stalemate of the past few years and risen above all other events, not only in the Middle East, but throughout the world. Thus, the issue has attracted more worldwide attention, which resulted in contacts and visits by several international parties to various area capitals. We are not trying to list or enumerate the indications of such international interest; we will deal with a single indicator, namely the forthcoming visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The visit will come in the wake of his meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, in Moscow. The Palestinian issue will undoubtedly be high on the list of priorities during the Moscow talks. The two sides may seek ways to resolve the situation; they may agree or disagree. The point is that the issue will be the subject of discusion and dialogue between the two sides.

Though the duration of Shultz' forthcoming tour of the region has not been specified, and the capitals which he will visit have not yet been determined, they must include Cairo, Amman, and Tel Aviv, and possibly Damascus and Riyadh. These are capitals that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy visited earlier in a probing mission to review ideas proposed by parties concerned. It may be very important for the U.S. to present ideas and proposals during this tour in the hope of finding a way out of the current crisis. More importantly, these ideas and proposals must give the impression that Washington is really aware of the dimensions of the issue and that it realistically appreciates the importance of the Palestinian people's role in bringing about a solution.

Whatever the circumstance, the region cannot arrive at a solution to its problem without the Palestinian people's participation. Just as importantly, the first step on the road to a solution cannot be taken without the representatives of the Palestinian people, the only party entitled to a right to the issue. We are not about to look into how the Palestinians may be represented; however, we emphasize that they must be represented in any effort to find a solution.

Equally important during Shultz' visit is for the Arab capitals he will visit to use one and the same language, to have consistent proposals, and to make the U.S. official feel the presence of an Arab coordination and a unified stand. He must not hear in one capital something that contradicts what he hears in another. In this regard, we may say that he will encounter one and the same view in both Amman and Cairo. This also goes for Riyadh, if he travels there. Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia have almost identical views on Palestinian rights and possibilities for solving the MIddle East issue.

Hence, we believe that the Middle East issue and the Palestinian problem are now approaching a serious turning point that will result in uncertain consequences. The potential repercussions of such a turning point may cause enormous damage in the region's countries if it is not reversed. The impact of destruction may extend to other parts of the world which are closely linked to the region's countries and their problems.

Commentary Urges Dialogue

NC211701 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Mursi 'Atallah commentary: "Shultz' Forthcoming Tour and Arab Responsibility in Dealing With the New Proposals and Ideas"]

[Text] Before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrives in the Middle East this week on a new mission in search for peace, we have the right to ask if we are facing a major change in U.S. policy in the region, or if this tour will be a mere repetition of previous but ineffective ones. What has been observed to be new so far is that Shultz will come this time with some ideas and proposals that express U.S. views on the principles and means for a solution. So far, however, indications of the U.S. position are not reassuring because they reflect the U.S. desire to pressure the Arabs rather than Israel, regardless of certain superficial suggestions meant to make us believe otherwise.

In our view, despite all reservations about the U.S. stand—particularly after the use of the veto to protect Israel from condemnation by the UN Security Council for its inhuman acts against the youths of the Palestinian uprising—we, as an Arab nation, must carefully scrutinize, more than ever before, any proposals or overtures offered to us in an attempt to settle the Middle East crisis. It might also be necessary to examine the intent behind such proposals more carefully than the proposals themselves, because we must be fully aware of our limits regarding mutual concessions dictated by the nature of political negotiations. In other words, we maintain that we, as Arabs, must bypass the stage of absolute and blind rejection of any proposal and seek dialogue and negotiations over any new proposal, as long as we are fully aware of the dividing line between what is permissible and what is not.

As an Arab nation, we are dutybound to encourage the moderate Palestinian trend to grow and expand instead of being dragged behind those who practice one-upmanship, and from whom the world has heard a no for a long time. This is the appropriate time for the world to hear a yes from the people of the uprising, as long as they say it at the proper time and place.

The Palestinian uprising has not only drawn world attention but has also shaken Israeli society and debunked many of the political theories and beliefs that claim Israel has the capability of perpetuating the status quo in the occupied Arab territories indefinitely. The steadfast Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have proven that they are capable of defying the Israeli superiority by their attachment to the Palestinian soil. We must benefit from the changes created by the uprising and by Mubarak's recent tour of the United States and Europe. We must move toward a new position instead of confining ourselves to the belief that the United States cannot or does not want to put pressure on Israel, and that, consequently, any proposals from Washington cannot bring us anything new.

Pan-Arab responsibility makes it incumbent upon us to pool all our resources to restore the strength and effectiveness of the Arab role in the international scene so as to force Israel to accept an international conference for peace. There is wider international conviction of the necessity for such a conference as the only means to restore security and stability to this vital region. Israel can no longer count on obstructing the convening of this conference unless it harps on Arab and Palestinian division. Even if peace is still a long way off, we must continue seeking it, whatever the difficulties, because it will enable us to regain our usurped rights, which is in keeping with our beliefs as a nation whose history is a testimony to its role as a peacemaker.

Israeli Separation of Hawks, Doves 'Silly Game'

JN201622 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
16 Feb 88 p 5

[Editorial: "The Farce of Hawks and Doves"]

[Text] Among the tactics which the Israeli establishment deliberately uses every now and then is the alleged separation of leaders and parties between hawks and doves. This old method might have deceived some people occasionally and under certain circumstances. However, this method has lost its content and influence by those who have studied the means of deception Tel Aviv has mastered to deceive world public opinion.

It is no secret that Israeli politicians divided the roles among themselves in such a play so that some of them appear as hawks who pursue extremist methods in their dealings with Arabs in general and with Palestinians in particular. Meanwhile, other Israeli politicians play the role of doves, preferring to adopt a policy that seeks peace and objects to the use of tyrant force. However, the truth which has been revealed and is no longer a secret is that such a division of roles among the Tel Aviv leaders is clearly no more than a silly game which is no longer believed by anyone.

Nevertheless, the Israeli establishment still pursues its game by playing differences between the Likud bloc led by Yitzhaq Shamir, leader of the hawks' battalion as they claim, and Shim'on Peres, leader of the doves's squadron which supports the convening of an international peace conference and urges the adoption of less violent measures against Palestinians. However, those who composed this play have forgotten a very important thing which undermines all the deception they try to show. In other words, they have forgotten that the man who is carrying out the toughest acts of violence and the most savage crime in the West Bank and Gaza today to quell the Palestinian people's revolution by iron and fire is Israeli Defense Minsiter Yitzhaq Rabin, one of the leaders of the Labor Party led by Peres, the alleged leader of the doves! Thus, the last veil of the farce of hawks and doves has fallen.

Further on Revolution Organization Prosecution

Extradition of Suspect Asked

NC200654 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT
20 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH reports today that Public Prosecutor Counsellor 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jindi has referred the files of the 'Egypt's Revolution Organization' case to the Cairo Court of Appeal, so that on the basis of the emergency law, it would set the date for an urgent session at the Higher State Security Court in the trial of the accused.

The paper cites Counsellor Raja' al-'Arabi, the chief public attorney for the State Security Prosecution, as saying that international security organs and Interpol have been asked to quickly apprehend Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and his cousin Jamal Shawqi 'Abd al-Nasir, after it was ascertained that there is no extradition treaty between Egypt and Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile AL-AHRAM reports today that Egyptian Interpol men have asked the Yugoslav authorities to extradite the second accused, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, who is residing there. The paper adds that they have received a reply from the Yugoslav authorities stating that they are studying this request and the possibility of extraditing the accused in order to stand trial in Egypt.

'Abd al-Nasir Actions Noted

NC200811 Cairo MENA in English 0758 GMT
20 Feb 88

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Cairo, Feb 20 (MENA)—In its main story, "AL-AHRAM" noted that new secrets are being revealed in relation to the "Thawrat Misr" [Egypt's Revolution] case, saying in its banner headlines that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir has exploited his diplomatic passport in smuggling arms to be used by the organisation. The paper further noted that the first defendant had attempted to shoot his brother, the third defendant, thus prompting him to inform security authorities of the organisation and its four operations.

"AL-AHRAM" gave details of the discovery and arrest of the members of the organisation, referring in this respect to how Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir had managed to smuggle arms into Egypt. The paper further quoted an authoritative senior official as saying that there is no agreement between Egypt and Yugoslavia for the extradition of criminals. This applies to Khalid, the second defendant, who is now living in Yugoslavia.

'Abd al-Nasir Plans To Return

NC211550 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT
21 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 21 (AFP)—Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, eldest son of the former Egyptian president, has said he will return to Egypt to face charges of involvement in attacks here on foreign diplomats, the SAWT AL-'ARAB weekly said Sunday.

Mr. 'Abd al-Nasir, son of the late Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, told the weekly he had "full confidence in Egyptian justice."

He is currently living in Yugoslavia.

Chief Prosecutor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jindi on Thursday called for the death penalty against Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and 10 others, who are alleged to be members of an underground group known as Egypt's Revolution.

He said he would seek prison sentences for nine other defendants.

Egypt's Revolution has claimed responsibility for attacks in Cairo that killed two Israeli diplomats and injured three U.S. envoys from 1985 to 1987.

Mr. 'Abd al-Nasir was indicted on charges that he had helped finance the group, Mr. al-Jindi said.

The prosecutor added that the final verdict on Mr. 'Abd al-Nasir and the other defendants would be made by Egypt's Higher Security Court.

The SAWT AL-'ARAB weekly is close to Nasserite movements that support pan-Arabism and are opposed to the policies of Israel and the United States.

The head of Egypt's Lawyers Association, Ahmad al-Khawajam, was meanwhile to travel to Yugoslavia on Sunday to meet Mr. 'Abd al-Nasir.

Mr. Al-Khawajah will be one of the defence lawyers representing Mr. 'Abd al-Nasir at the Higher Security Court.

Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, president of Egypt from 1954 to 1970, was a towering figure in the Arab and non-aligned world in the 1960s and 1970s and attracted a wide following both at home and abroad.

Defendent on U.S. Contacts

NC220902 Cairo MENA in English 0711 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, Feb 22 (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Leading its front-page news with a report on what its banner described as thrilling revelations by the third defendant in the case of Thawrat Misr (Egypt's Revolution), a clandestine ring that had committed assaults on foreign diplomats, as to why he contacted the United States Embassy, "AL-AKHBAR" also highlights in its top billing that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, the second defendant in the case, liquidated his business in Egypt and left the country on learning that members of the ring had been apprehended.

The third defendant said he exposed the ring and approached the U.S. Embassy to give information exposing the ring in return for half a million dollars and a passport and ticket to go to America where he planned to live till the end of his life away from Egypt, reports "AL-AKHBAR."

The newspaper quotes Colonel Fahd Badr al-Din Najm of the State Security Investigation Department, as revealing that the third defendant, Ahmad 'Isam al-Din told him that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir used to deliver bags full of money to his brother, the first defendant, and that his brother had told him that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir brought them weapons packed in packages of children's toys, and would receive four million dollars from Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The leader of the ring, Mahmud Nur al-Din, had gone to Libya twice while he was in London. [passage omitted]

Papers on 'Egypt's Revolution'

NC210813 Cairo MENA in English 0755 GMT 21 feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 21 (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution is currently serving notice on 18 defendants involved in the case of the so-called Thawrat Misr (Egypt's Revolution) case that they will be passed for trial before the Higher State Security Court and the charges brought against them which included murder and attempted murder of foreigners in Egypt and conspiracy to carry out terrorist assaults, reports "AL-AHRAM" in its top billing and leading front-page story.

A report appears on "AL-AKHBAR's" front-page that the state security prosecution is currently drawing up copies of the decision to pass the defendants for trial to give each a copy.

The Egyptian branch of the Interpol contacted the Yugoslav branch asking it to help in apprehending the second defendant in the case, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, and his cousin Jamal Shawqi 'Abd al-Nasir, also accused in the case, who were reported to be in Yugoslavia, to bring them to trial.

The director of the Egyptian branch of the Interpol said the two defendants were being followed in a number of countries in which they were believed to be residing or to which they might move, and diplomatic formalities would be taken through the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their extradition, reports -AL-AHRAM".

In the case of countries with which Egypt has no agreements on the extradition of criminals, request will be made for apprehending the defendants on the principle of reciprocal treatment, application of which is left to the discretion of the country concerned, the Interpol director said.

"AL-AHRAM" reports that the prosecution is demanding penalties ranging from capital punishment to imprisonment with hard labour for the first eleven defenandants in the case and prison sentences for the remaining defendants charged with conniving with the first defendants.

"AL-AHRAM" also reports that the security authorities revealed that the defendants in the case brought the explosives and bullet-proof vests into the country in parcels labelled as rare art objects, spare parts and electrical appliances consigned to the leader of the organization. The vests and hand grenades were manufactured in the United Kingdom and were brought for use in major terrorist operations against a foreign establishment in Egypt.

A security official said that the leader of the ring, Mahmud Nur al-Din, kept parcels containing grenades and bullet proof vests bearing the trade mark Phoenix in his apartment in Al-Mazah District.

The weapons seized had been concealed in leather bags in the basement of a building owned by the leader of the organisation together with a huge quantity of live ammunition.

Technical reports on the examination of the rifles seized established that the weapons were used in rifing at victims. Each weapon was examined and ballistically matched with bullets and shells picked up from the sites of the incidents and segregated. Examination of the weapons indicated that only the leader of the ring used a pistol in firing at victims' cars.

The first defendant, it transpired, was wanted by the Interpol for attempting to murder his divorcee in London and that upon his return to Egypt he was admitted into a mental hospital for treatment of his addiction to heroin. Investigation also revealed that he recruited a physician in the hospital to join the ring and caused him to be dismissed from the hospital. Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, the second defendant, called on the first defendant in hospital and had him discharged.

"AL-JUMHURIYAH" reports on its front-page that the Egyptian branch of the Interpol officially asked the Interpol in Paris to shadow the second defendant in the case, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, who is at large abroad, and to arrest him and hand him over to the Egyptian authorities.

The newspaper also reports that the Egyptian branch of the Interpol made similar approaches to a number of countries the defendant was likely to move to.

"AL-JUMHURIYAH" further reports that Ahmad al-Khawaja, chairman of the Bar Association and chosen counsel for the defense of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, will leave today to Yugoslavia to meet him.

Libya

Saudi Envoy Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD200009 Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Shaykh "Ali Muslim" [name as received] the personal envoy of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to inquire about the leader's health. Shaykh Ali Muslim had arrived in Tripoli at noon today.

Leaves 19 Feb

LD200012 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Shaykh "Ali Muslim" [name as received] the personal envoy of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia left Tripoli this evening at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Algerian Industry Minister Arrives for Visit

LD211551 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Feb (JANA)—Brother Zitouni Messaoudi, minister of light industries in sisterly Algeria, and his delegation arrived in Tripoli this afternoon.

Brother Messaoudi made a statement to JANA, at the beginning of which he conveyed the greetings of President Chadli Bendjedid to the brother leader of the revolution. He said: We are happy to be on Libyan Arab soil, our second homeland. He added: We came here to carry out our mission, which is to continue the work to assess the results of the historic meeting between the leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid, and to discuss and work more for the success of the efforts to achieve the industrial and economic integration of the brotherly countries.

He pointed out that during this visit the possibility of creating an Arab Libyan-Algerian company involving industrial projects for the benefit of the Arab people in the two countries and as part of building the great Arab Maghreb will be discussed.

Sudan

Closure of Libyan, Iranian Centers Denied

JN221047 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 22 [SUNA]—Information Culture Minister Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm who is also the government official spokesman has categorically denied the press reports saying the government had closed down the Libyan Cultural Centre and the Iranian-Sudanese Friendship Association. Press reports here yesterday quoted Al-Tawm as saying the Council of Ministers had decided to close down the two institutions.

The minister confirmed, in a press statement issued here yesterday what he really said was that "any cultural centre or association established in the country without permission from the authorities will be closed down," adding that the inaccuracy in reporting on such issues lead to confusion.

Contacts Begin on Israeli Airspace Violations

JN191515 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Feb (SUNA)—The newspaper AL-AYYAM published here today, Friday, said official contacts have begun among the concerned circles in Sudan regarding the Israeli violations of Sudanese airspace south of the Red Sea near the Palestinian camps.

The government's official spokesman, Al-Tawm, said he cannot confirm or deny that the planes which reports said violated Sudanese airspace were Israeli planes. Earlier, reports said Israeli planes violated Sudanese airspace near the Palestinian camps.

In press statements, PLO representative in Khartoum Abu Raja'i confirmed the Israeli violations. He said this has taken place several times and proves these are reconnaissance operations of the Palestinian camps in Sudan.

Al-Banna on 'Foreign' Efforts Against Democracy

JN211121 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 21, (SUNA)—Member of the Council of State Idris al-Banna has accused a foreign element which he did not name as being working to distemper the democratic progress in the Sudan. [sentence as received]

In a statement today by AL-USBU' newspaper Al-Banna said that the authorities here have captured political leaflets denouncing the aplication of liberal democracy and calling for the regionalism and totalitarian syrstem.

The Sudanese authorities are monitoring all suspected activities working in this trend and all foreign powers plotting against the continuation of democracy which is adopted and accepted by the Sudanese people, the member of State Council added.

Madibu Says Parties Coalition To Continue

JN201822 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 20 (SUNA)—Energy and Mining Minister and member of the Al-Ummah and Democratic Unionist Parties Coalition Coordination Committee Dr Adam Madibu (Al-Ummah Party) emphasized agreement by the two coalition parties on maintaining their current coalition.

He added that an agreement was reached on formation of the national council for planning, reduction of membership of the Council of State and announcing of names of chairmen of Constitutent Assembly's various committees on next Tuesday.

On the other hand, member of the Coalition Coordination Committee, Al-Tawm Muhammad Al-Tawm who is information minister—DUP—said that work was underway for consolidating the coalition.

He also said an agreement was reached by the two parties on reducing membership of the Council of State and other major issues like affiliation of the state security organ and carrying out a limited ministerial reshuffle.

SPLA Forces Sink Nile Steamers, Warn Government

EA201508 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] A fleet of enemy steamers fell in the ambush of SPLA forces of Northern Upper Nile Zonal Command under the overall command of Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command. Heavy fighting took place yesterday and today. The total number of enemy steamers destroyed is seven, with two of them completely sunk. Our forces are now pursuing the remaining four steamers. Details will be announced as they reach Radio SPLA.

The commander in chief passes warm revolutionary congratulations to Cdr Lam Akol Ajawin and his officers, NCO's and men of Northern Upper Nile Zonal Command for this great victory following Kurmuk and Kapoeta. This great victory proves Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his Matthew Obur and others wrong. Any more attempts to bring the Army and military equipment by steamers will be repulsed. Bringing relief supplies by steamers is a matter of discussion and agreement, but any unilateral decision by Khartoum to use the river Nile for any purpose will be considered a hostile act and will be fought.

Government Denies Barges Sunk

EA211908 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Brother comrades-in-arms, honorable listeners, peace and the mercy of God upon you. In our previous talks we spoke of the determination of John Garang and his mercenary gangs to have the south live in a state of hunger, illness, homelessness, and destruction—introduced into the south by their dirty war, which has no purpose other than destruction.

We also mentioned that the Armed Forces are determined to deliver relief material and supplies to all our people who are affected in the south, whatever the risks and the difficulties, especially after the failure of attempts by the Council of Mercy, as a neutral party, to ease the famine difficulty of our people in the south. Although motivated by purely humanitarian concern, the Council's attempt did not succeed. Garang and his gang continued intercepting relief convoys.

Garang's radio and the BBC reported yesterday that the barges that left Kosti loaded with good things for our people in the upper Nile were exposed to an attack by the outlaws and that the attack resulted in the sinking of four barges. Of course we know about this matter and have talked too much about this subject—the lies that are always (?reported) by the outlaws' radio.

Previously the outlaws' radio reported that there was a convoy of barges heading toward Malakal and that they sank these barges. These barges delivered all the supplies and carried out their task very efficiently and returned to Kosti. All the correspondents, including the BBC correspondoent, were in Kosti and saw with their own eyes the barges that returned from Malakal. They had only very minor damage, namely, broken glass in the main engine room.

Once again the outlaws have falsely alleged that they sank four barges. All this is meant to create confusion in the Upper Nile, because they know that all our people are waiting for these barges carrying good things and coming to ease their famine.

Broadcasting such news certainly would create confusion among our people in the Upper Nile, who would think no supplies would be arriving soon since the outlaws had sunk four barges. All this talk is nothing but lies. It is talk that is nothing but biased propaganda, propaganda framed by the outlaws on the instructions of Sudan's enemies.

What happened—and we always give you the facts—is that on 19 February rebel forces intercepted the barges heading toward Malakal, in the Shukkaba area. Our courageous Armed Forces, with groups from the friendly forces of Anya Nya II, confronted them and succeeded in repulsing the rebel attack in Shukkaba.

They killed 82 outlaws and injured a very large number of them. That is to say, the number of those wounded who withdrew was larger than the number of those killed. In this attack our forces captured 15 Kalashnikov rifles, 1 RPG- 7 and 2 46-guns, 1 modified transmission set, and large quantities of ammunition.

In our ranks the losses are: one martyred, five injured, two martyred from the friendly forces of Anya Nya II, and seven injured, including five civilians from the civilian crew of the barges.

On 20 February our forces confronted an attack by the outlaws in the Rum area, who intended to attack the barges, but the escort accompanying the barges was strong and the guards were very alert for any deceitful attack by the outlaws.

Our forces courageously confronted the forces sent to hit the barges and killed 23 people and captured 9 Kalashnikov rifles, 1 B10 gun, and large quantities of ammunition. One of those killed among the outlaws was a European man who was using the B10 gun. That is, our forces noticed a European, naturally very noticeable by his colour, who was using the B10 gun against our forces.

Our men succeeded in fatally wounding him. To avoid having this discovered as a proof of foreign participation, the outlaws threw his body into the Nile. As we have been saying every day, this shows irrefutably that the outlaws do not act out of national intentions or their own self determination. All their starting points are those of treachery, stoogery, and mercenary motives, and all the instructions they receive are coming from the country's enemies who do not want any good in Sudan.

In Rum area our losses are: five injured and one martyred from the friendly forces. One woman who was on board the barges died and another woman was injured.

That is all that happened regarding the attack on the barges heading toward Malakal. These barges are now continuing on their way without any resistance and, God willing, there will be no damage to any of the barges before they reach Malakal. The men of the Armed Forces and the friendly forces are very keen that the barges reach Malakal safely. [passage omitted]

Clashes With 'Forces of Treachery' Noted

EA201834 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Brother comrades-in-arms and honorable listeners: Our courageous Armed Forces are continuing steadfastly to confront the mercenary forces of treachery and injustice, forces which enjoy destruction and delight in wallowing in the bosom of opportunism and stoogery.

The rebels assembled large numbers of troops around Farajok in preparation for attacking and capturing it. They shelled the town with artillery and bombarded it with mortars. Their ambitions came to nothing. As they were launching the attack, the Armed Forces heroically confronted and drove them away from the town, killing 21 of them and capturing 6 RPG launchers and a large quantity of Kalashnikov ammunition.

The (Toshk) camp, south east of Tonj, was destroyed and burned with three outlaws killed. Forces combed the area as far as Uwayl, which they reached without resistance from the treacherous outlaws. The northern Bahr al-Ghazal area has been mopped up.

In the eastern Kayli area, a force was rushed in to mop up the Burkan, (Jerijun), and Khawr al-Hasan areas. These forces found the area free of outlaws, who had withdrawn into Ethiopian territory as they normally do when forces are rushed in to face them. They are too cowardly to face the Armed Forces and always find refuge in Ethiopian territory.

In the Shali area, our forces have progressed from the phase of defensive to that of offensive operations. A fighting patrol was sent to ambush the outlaws in the Ghabat al-Fan and Shali al-Arab mountain areas. A rebel force was ambushed; four rebels were killed and four Kalashnikov rifles captured. The remaining rebels fled towards Ghabat al-Qana. A force from Shali was immediately rushed to pursue them. It clashed with them in Ghabat al-Qana, killing 10 rebels and capturing 1. It also captured five Kalashnikov rifles from the rebels.

Clashes were not restricted to those between the Armed Forces and the rebels. The Ar Ruzayqat tribe clashed with the outlaws, who had attacked them and stolen many of their cattle in Abu Simsim. The Ar Ruzayqat killed 10 outlaws, captured 5 Kalashnikov rifles and regained all the stolen cattle.

Brother comrades-in-arms and honorable listeners, this is how our courageous Armed Forces confirm every day that they are doing their duty selflessly and with total patriotism, making every conceivable effort to preserve a unified Sudan and restore peace and stability to it. Until we meet again we greet you all.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Message
LD201009 Kuwait KUNA in English 0933 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 20 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah Saturday received Soviet envoy Oleg Grinevskiy who handed h.h. a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The audience was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait.

Man Jailed for Urging Regime's Overthrow
LD220931 Kuwait KUNA in English 0906 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 22 (KUNA)—The state security court Monday sentenced Ismail Sayed Hassan Sayed Akbar to three years in prison for distributing leaflets calling for overthrow of the regime.

The 31 year old Kuwaiti national was charged with inciting by way of writing in public places for overthrow of the regime in Kuwait by force and illegal means and with distributing leaflets slandering the amir and abusing the amirship.

Today's open trial in which the sentence was passed was preceded by an open sitting on February 6 and by a closed-door sitting on the request of the prosecution in which the accused was interrogated, witnesses heard and the defence and prosecution delivering their final statements.

The court, presided by Judge Muhammad 'Abd al-Hai al-Banna'i, confiscated the leaflets.

PDRY

Power Station Protocol Signed With USSR
EA191613 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Comrade (Parupskiy), USSR deputy minister of power and electrification, and his delegation left Aden this morning after visiting Democratic Yemen for several days.

Shortly before his departure, Comrade (Parupskiy) told ANA of his satisfaction with the results of his talks with officials of the Energy and Minerals Ministry. He said that during the visit, a protocol to the third comprehensive program was signed covering all stages of construction of the thermal power station and the water desalinization plant. He said the station's third generator and the first unit of the desalinization complex would go on line in April 1989. He mentioned that construction of the power station is proceeding swiftly, thanks to the efforts of Yemeni builders working alongside their Soviet colleagues. He stressed that the power station project would be fully handed over in 1991. The bulk of the work will be completed in 1990.

He said that output of electricity would be doubled when the project is handed over. He added that during the visit a protocol, five supplements, and a contract were signed. The contract relates to the overall development of the power supply industry throughout Democratic Yemen to the year 2000. The other supplements cover the station's requirements, namely, spare parts, the basic production base, and the training of Yemeni cadres in the USSR.

Comrade (Parupskiy) concluded his statement by saying that during his talks with Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Council of Ministers, he noticed great interest in the future development of electric power in Democratic Yemen. He said this fact reflected the major importance attached to the development of this form of energy. He stressed that the Energy and Minerals Ministry will need to step up efforts to accelerate the completion of the work, especially those relating to the startup of the water desalinization complex.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Mahmud Tarmum, deputy minister of energy and minerals.

Libyan Petrochemical Delegation Arrives
EA211654 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] A delegation from the General Secretariat of Petrochemical Industries of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, led by Brother 'Abd al-Hamid al-Dughri, secretary of external relations in the General Secretariat, arrived in Aden this evening on a visit to Democratic Yemen which will last for several days.

In a statement to ANA, Brother al-Dughri expressed pleasure at the visit to our country which comes as part of an exchange of visits by the petroleum, mining, and chemicals unions in our country and the General Secretariat of Chemical Industries in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He stressed the importance of developing relationships, coordination, and consultations in international forums between the two bodies. He said during the visit he will discuss ways of providing moral and material support to the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory so the uprising will continue. He was received by a number of officials of the secretariat of the petroleum, mining, and chemicals union.

Reportage on Salim al-Bid Visit to Moscow

For Aden coverage of the visit of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to the PDRY Embassy in Moscow and his talks with the YAR ambassador to Moscow, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 22 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Saudi Arabia

Soviet Envoy Arrives With Message for King

LD211300 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, has received a message from Vladimir Polyakov, Soviet assistant foreign minister in charge of Middle East affairs, to be delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques from Soviet leaders.

The message is in reply to the message that the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, sent, as entrusted by the GCC leaders, to the UN members concerning the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian Arab people's cause. The message was conveyed when the Soviet envoy was received by his royal highness at his office at Al-Yamamah Palace this afternoon.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Kingdom's ambassador to Washington; His Excellency 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mansouri, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs.

Earlier this morning, Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conferred at his office with Mr Vladimir Polyakov, who was accompanied by Robert Turdiyev, head of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, they exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Washington; Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Mu'min, head of the General Administration for Asian Affairs; Ambassador Dr Nizar 'Ubayd Madani, head of the Western Department of the ministry.

The Soviet envoy arrived in Riyadh last night. [passage omitted]

'Full' Relations 'Expected'

NC201135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1116 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Paris, 20 Feb (MENA)—The Paris-based Arabic-language magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL has cited Arab political sources as stating that Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union are expected to establish full diplomatic relations following the completion of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

In its issue today, the magazine says the recent visit to Moscow by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was to prepare for this move. The visit, the paper notes, would not have taken place had there not been a definite Soviet decision to pull out troops from Afghanistan and end the Afghan crisis.

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives in Riyadh

Carries Husayn Message

JN211345 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Riyadh at noon today on a visit to Saudi Arabia during which he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The prime minister was received at King Khalid International Airport by His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior; His Highness Prince Sattam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy amir of Riyadh; Mansur al- Khirayji, deputy chief of royal protocol; and a number of senior officials.

The Jordanian charge d'affaires in Riyadh and members of the Jordanian Embassy also received the prime minister.

Delivers Message

LD211437 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1349 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, received at his palace this afternoon His Excellency Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Sattam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy governor of the region of Riyadh; 'Abd-'Aziz ibn Muhsin al-Tuwayjiri, assistant deputy commander of the National Guard; and 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, adviser at his royal highness' court.

They all had dinner with the crown prince. Afterward, an in camera meeting was held between His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Excellency Zayd al-Rifa'i in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister.

His excellency the Jordanian prime minister handed a message to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from His Majesty King Husayn of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, may God protect him.

Leaves Riyadh

LD211728 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1533 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—His Excellency Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the delegation accompanying him left Riyadh this afternoon after a short visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

'Unique Style' of 'Fickle' Khomeyni Viewed

LD211112 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0855 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)—The reality and falsity of the slogans used by Khomeyni since he came to power in Iran are uncovered daily; the personal and propaganda aims that Khomeyni tries to achieve through these slogans, which he uses to divert the attention of the Iranian people, are becoming clearer.

Khomeyni is working toward the realization of his personal glory by using all means. He changes his color and style according to the circumstances. Sometimes he uses Islam and claims that he acts in its interest, then he issues a decree which gives his government the right to close down mosques, abolish prayers, and prevent people from performing the pilgrimage.

Other times, he snubs his aides once they have carried out their assigned task; he kills them, expels them, and pursues them.

This style is clearly apparent in Khomeyni's relation with Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, who became Iran's president in early 1980, and who was once one of Khomeyni's closest aides.

Khomeyni said about Bani-Sadr, when he needed him and needed his role, when he was elected president of Iran: "The Iranian people elected this man because he is a Muslim, a believer in the principles of Islam; it is obligatory to obey him and assist him; to disobey him is considered blasphemy and treason."

Once Khomeyni had achieved his aims and goals, he said about Bani-Sadr: "Bani-Sadr claims he is a believer and a servant of Islam, but I knew he was lying from the beginning and, contrary to his claims, he is betraying us and betraying Islam."

These contradictory words about one person and at one specific period of time provide evidence of the unique style of the fickle Khomeyni. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Soviet Envoy on U.S. Middle East Moves

JN211704 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Sharjah, Feb 21 (GNA)—The Soviet Ambassador to the UAE Nikolayevich Fedotov described criticism by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the American policy as a "frank and candid comment" reflecting delicately the nature of matters. In an interview with UAE daily AL-KHALIJ pulished here today, Mr Fedotov said U.S. behavior and actions affirm the truth of Shaykh Zayid's statement.

He added that the USSR's stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict favours setting up an Arab-Jewish state in which Jerusalem has a special status. He said the 1947 resolution should be the basis of achieving a solution to the Palestinian crisis. He called in this regard on the Arab countries to stress the implementation of the resolution, since it emanates from the Palestinian people's right to self determination.

Regarding Soviet-Israeli relations, Fedotov said that there are some contacts between the two sides but only on the consular level.

Meanwhile, the Soviet ambassador described the U.S. initiatives as a reaction to the uprising in the occupied Arab lands. He called for practical steps such as founding a preparatory committee, an experts committee and the convening of the international conference at the ministerial level.

The Soviet ambassador described the recent visit of Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, to Moscow as a "big sign" to the promotions of bilateral relations and a step along the road to normalising those relations.

Husayn Meets With Council of Ministers

*JN201636 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 20 Feb 88*

[Text] President Saddam Husayn presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The Council discussed topics of its agenda and made the necessary decisions. The Council of Ministers also noted with satisfaction efforts by the Ba'th Party organizations, the state organs, and citizens in Baghdad to take measures to evacuate cities as a civilized practice applied by all the advanced countries to protect citizens from the dangers of diseases; natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, and destructive hurricanes; wars; and bloc strikes. The Council of Ministers urged citizens to cooperate with the competent organs that are applying these measures.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; RCC members; the members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; the head of the presidential office; ministers; and a number of state officials.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,027

*JN191750 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Comunique No. 3,027 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The triumphant Iraqi forces continue to carry out their heroic activities in the operations sectors inflicting new losses on the aggressors. The losses for last night and today were as follows:

1. Seventeen enemy personnel were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. Three infantry positions were destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Special Army corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Three infantry positions were destroyed and those manning them were killed or wounded in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Two infantry positions and one ammunition dump were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One ammunition dump was destroyed and a large vehicle was damaged in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. One man was killed and an ammunition dump was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. Two enemy boats tried to approach the Al-'Amiq port yesterday. They were confronted by the valiant port force and forced to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 February 1988

Communique No 3,028

*JN201741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Feb 88*

[Communique No. 3,028 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their heroic activities in the operation sectors last night and today, inflicting more losses on our country's enemies, the scoundrel Khomeyniites, as follows:

1. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked enemy units opposite them and achieved the following: killing 49 enemy personnel; destroying 1 observation post and either killing or wounding its occupants; destroying 1 shovel [preceding word in English] and 1 bulldozer; destroying and burning 5 vehicles; destroying 1 ammunition dump; and capturing 2 160-mm mortar guns, 5 RPG-7 launchers, 4 various rifles, and 1 radio set.

2. Two infantry positions and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed and one enemy vehicle was damaged in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed and one large vehicle was damaged in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One scoundrel was killed and one 106-mm gun was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One 106-mm gun emplacement, one single-barrelled machinegun emplacement, one raft, one large vehicle, and four infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Our units on the VII Army Corps front inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: one infantry position, one 106-mm gun, one machinegun emplacement, and two vehicles were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 February 1988

Iraqi Jets Raid Keshvar Bridge

JN211109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1053 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)—Iraqi fighter aircraft carried out a destructive raid against the Keshvar bridge north of Andimeshk at 1015 [0715 GMT] today, after which they safely returned to base.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA this afternoon that the Iraqi aircraft pounded their target, accurately hitting the bridge which is used for military purposes.

Communique No 3,029

JN211747 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Communique No. 3,029 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their heroic activities, our Armed Forces supported by God's victory, stress Iraq's capability and its overwhelming superiority over the renegade enemies. The following is a roundup of our activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force is continuing to destroy the Iranian regime's vital and economic targets to convince it that it cannot continue the war and keep its vital installations at the same time. At 1015 [0715 GMT] today, our daring planes carried out a destructive raid on the Keshvar Bridge north of Andimeshk, which is used for military purposes. Our planes flew 54 combat missions to carry out this duty and other duties in the operation sectors, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, and equipment. After carrying out these duties, our planes returned safely to their bases with God's care.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked enemy units opposite them, achieving the following: 29 scoundrels killed; 2 tanks and 3 infantry positions destroyed; 5 vehicles burned and destroyed and 2 others damaged; and 5 personnel shelters destroyed.

3. One infantry position and one light machinegun were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Five infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two boats were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Twenty-one scoundrels were killed and six infantry positions, three machineguns, and one SPG-9 gun were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. One enemey personnel was killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

8. One scoundrel was killed, six infantry positions destroyed, and two vehicles and one boat were burned and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

9. Five enemy personnel were either killed or wounded; three infantry positions, one 106-mm gun, and one machinegun were destroyed; and three vehicles were burned and destroyed in the VII Army Corps front.

10. A number of Iranian soldiers took refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

11. The criminal enemy shelled the township of Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery last night. The shelling damaged a number of houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 February 1988

Foreign Minister 'Aziz Begins Visit to PRC

For Chinese accounts of the visit to the PRC by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, including his talks with PRC Acting Premier Li Peng, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 22 February China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Molotov Cocktails Thrown at U.S. Consulate

TA201904 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Excerpt] In East Jerusalem two Molotov cocktails were thrown at the U.S. Consulate. No one was hurt, and little damage was caused. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Arad Denies Spy Operating in U.S.

TA201915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Israel's ambassador in the United States has denied reports that Israel has another spy active in the United States.

Leaders' Remarks, Prospects for Shultz Visit

Shamir on Arab Intentions

TA220556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Secretary Shultz is due here on Thursday. Speaking in Jerusalem last night, Prime Minister Shamir said he would be welcome and listened to.

[Begin Shamir recording] He knows that we are for peace, that we are ready for direct talks with the Arab neighbors. We will explain our objections to an international conference which, by its nature and composition, will, in our view, be counterproductive, and when the time comes for decision, we shall decide on the basis of what is in our national interest. We bear the responsibility and the consequences for any decisions. We are eager to hear the opinions of and to benefit from the advice of our friends, and especially from our own brothers in faith, but the final responsibility is with the government and people of the state of Israel. I hope that, as in the past, our interests and those of the United States will coincide, and that we will find an agreed common approach. [end recording]

On the current violence, Shamir said this was an expression of the Arab refusal to accept Israel and coexist with her.

[Begin Shamir recording] Let us not misinterpret and misjudge the real Arab intentions. Such mistakes could be very costly. Those who accuse us of being occupiers of Arab areas and speak to us of morality and human rights must not forget that this very place where we are meeting now, in Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv and Jaffa and Haifa and the 'Emeq [the valley region] and the Galilee, are, in the eyes of the Arabs, occupied territories that belong, as of right, to the Arab people. This is their belief. This is their claim. This is the objective of their struggle. Governments in this region generally stamp out such riots and violence by ruthless measures, within a few days. We cannot use such methods. [end recording]

3-Point Shamir Plan Detailed

TA220859 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, with the help of his aides, has consolidated a position paper which will be presented to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is due to arrive in Israel this weekend. The position paper contains three major clauses:

A. A plan for solving the problem of Palestinian refugees.

B. Comprehensive peace with Jordan.

C. A detailed autonomy plan.

Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, his assistant, Nadav 'Aner, and Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein will head the team from the prime minister's office that will present the main points of the plan to the U.S. secretary of state and his party.

The main points of the plan for solving the refugee problem: the construction of 41,000 housing units for the 280,000 refugees in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip who still reside in camps (about 30,000 housing units in Gaza and another 11,000 in Judaea and Samaria). The housing units will be in the form of high-rise buildings in areas adjacent to the refugee camps or at the site of the refugee camps themselves. The plan was worked out with the help of data supplied by the Civilian Administration.

According to the plan, which will be carried out with the help of an international fund set up especially to this end, the project will be completed within 8 to 10 years. Israel will be prepared to carry out the construction work with the help of Israeli and foreign building contractors, in cooperation with any international element that will agree to help solve the problem.

The second clause, dealing with a comprehensive peace plan with Jordan, outlines the process for reaching a peace agreement with Jordan in phases, combined with autonomy. According to this proposal, autonomy will be established in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza over a 3-year period, with simultaneous negotiations with Jordan over a peace treaty. By the 3d year, joint arrangements for working out de facto peace relations with Jordan will be anchored in contracts. The idea behind the proposal is that after 3 years, when peaceful relations prevail with Jordan, it will be relatively easy to solve the question of a permanent settlement in Judaea, Swmaria, and Gaza.

The third clause states that Israel adheres to the autonomy principles agreed upon at Camp David, and proposes that the establishment of autonomy begin at the point where negotiations with Egypt on this matter were stopped. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Initiative, Autonomy

TA211824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Interview with Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, by Yitzhaq Golan—live]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Good evening, Dr Beilin. Prime Minister Shamir again made it clear that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative is nothing but a collection of ideas which have not at all been consolidated as a clear plan that could serve as a basis for political negotiations. If this is so, on what are the various Foreign Ministry teams focusing? What are they discussing in preparation for the U.S. secretary of state's arrival in Jerusalem this week?

[Beilin] The United States decided to renew its involvement in the Middle East political process, after having made a decision to the contrary—that nothing would happen in 1988—a few months ago. This involvement stems largely, perhaps mainly, from developments in the occupied territories, and is mainifested in a new idea of bringing about an initial discussion on the substance of interim and permanent arrangements before the start of the international event, as it is now called. In other words, substance first and procedure later. This in fact is the main idea of this initiative.

It is true that there is no detailed plan yet. In the first stage, which will last several weeks, the U.S. Administration, through the secretary of state or his aides, will deal with preparing guidelines that will be largely acceptable to the various parties, and with guidelines that can lead to this international event, to be followed by an interim arrangement and deliberations on a permanent one. This is the importance of this involvement, and it is for this that Foreign Ministry teams are preparing. The teams are dealing with two issues: principles or guidelines for a permanent arrangement, as well as principles or guidelines for an interim arrangement.

[Golan] Still, teams in the prime minister's office are also busy at work now. To the best of my knowledge, there is no coordination whatsoever between the teams of the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry. In view of this, it seems to me that the secretary of state will first have to shuttle between the prime minister's office and the vice prime minister's office in Jerusalem before he begins his shuttle trip to Amman, Cairo, and Damascus. He will first have to bridge the gaps between Shamir and Peres.

[Beilin] I am not convinced of this. Look, generally speaking, when such deliberations take place—this has been the case in the past, too—the Foreign Ministry is the key element. It has teams and maintains negotiations, beyond, of course, those talks with the prime minister or the foreign minister himself. The prime minister's office neither has nor has had a mechanism making the establishment of teams of experts possible. Therefore, what you are talking about is neither unique nor unprecedented. It is a natural phenomenon in such situations. I welcome any cooperation with the prime minister's office. If there are officials in that office interested in being involved in such a political process or such negotiations, or in the preparation of some papers, I believe this can only be considered a blessing.

[Golan] Still, the result will surely be contradictory papers. Here are the facts: The prime minister repeats that it should be clear, before the opening of any negotiations, that no inch of Eretz Yisra'el's land is negotiable. However, the vice prime minister says: Peace in exchange for territories, albeit not all the territories. So you are speaking of two teams presenting the secretary of state with two totally different positions. This is why I am saying that he will have to coordinate matters between the two offices.

[Beilin] No, this will not be the case. In my opinion, if anybody thinks that Mr Shultz is going to hear the Likud's or the Tehiya's platform at the prime minister's office, and the Alignment's in the foreign minister's office, they are taking a simplistic view. I think that at this stage we are speaking of principles, and one should take into consideration that the common denominator between the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry is much larger than it sometimes seems, if one judges only by verbal scuffles.

We largely agree on the importance of a peace arrangement at this time too, that it is not necessary to wait until the last child stops throwing stones—rather, to begin a political move now. There is understanding that it is desirable to do this in two stages, the interim and permanent ones. There is understanding that the permanent stage should have the character of one type of autonomy or another. The permanent stage will have to stem largely from the steps adopted during the interim stage.

There are also guiding principles such as UN Security Council Resolution 242 to which both the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry, both the Alignment and the Likud, agree. There are the Camp David Accords which are very far-reaching. They may be the most far-reaching thing achieved over the last 20 years. And there is agreement on them, too. I believe there is much room for agreement within Israel, so that the main problem lies not within Israel itself, but between Israel and the Palestinian people, between Israel and its neighbors.

[Golan] But many think that the problem lies within the state of Israel, for quite a simple reason. One of the political foundations of the coalition agreement of the national unity government is the Camp David Accords. The prime minister repeatedly emphasizes that this is the basis for negotiations, while the vice prime minister says that this agreement, which includes autonomy, does not in fact exist anymore. These are facts. On the previous point you mentioned, that there is agreement on opening negotiations simultaneously with the throwing of stones, the Likud ministers say that quiet and order should first be established in the territories, that a political move should only take place later—otherwise this will be tantamount to a surrender.

[Beilin] As far as facts are concerned, this is wrong. Had he wanted to, the prime minister could have told Shultz: Please wait until incidents in the territories end. Then we will welcome you. He did not do so. He welcomed Shultz' arrival now, and he did well to do so, since I believe it would have been a very grave error to give the right of veto to those kids who throw stones or Molotov cocktails. It may well be that those who send the children do not want a political process and would be very glad if it did not begin at all. Still, our interests lie in a political process, and it is therefore in our interests to begin this process even when stones are still being thrown, although everything should be done to stop this.

As for Camp David, what does the coalition agreement say? It states that when political negotiations begin, Israel will propose the Camp David Accords but will of course give consideration to any other proposal Jordan raises. This is still valid now. I do not think anybody in Israel views the Camp David Accords as negative, surely not Shim'on Peres who supported and voted for it, contrary to some others, even in Mr Begin's party, who voted against it. Thus, one should not disavow the Camp David Accords, which are a great achievement.

Other proposals, however, could surely be raised by the Jordanians, and if they are we will address them. I do not think it is conceivable to anybody that we will repeat the words of Camp David time and again and that we will keep quiet, saying that we can refer to nothing but Camp David, whenever anybody says something else and raises a different proposal.

[Golan] Still, according to leaks so far, the Shultz initiative in fact is the Reagan plan of September 1981, with the addition of a conference which you today call an international event, a shortening of the transition period for the interim arrangement, and negotiations on a final arrangement no later than January [1989]. Why should we agree to back down so quickly according to the U.S. dictate?

[Beilin] Let me tell you something. The Reagan plan of September 1982, not 1981, which was rejected by the Israeli Government at the time—incidentally, the Labor Party was then prepared to view it as a basis for negotiations; the two parties definitely dispute this—is the U.S. stance. It has been the U.S. stance more or less since 1967, with minor modifications in one direction or another.

What is the United States saying? It is saying that if negotiations are held on the permanent arrangement, and its opinion is solicited, then this is its position. The Reagan plan has positive elements such as the unity of Jerusalem, demilitarization, opposition to a Palestinian state and the like, as well as elements which seem less correct to many of us. The U.S. proposal is one that has been raised by the U.S. Administration which has been the friendliest to Israel. I do not remember a friendlier administration, and although I am an optimist, it is difficult for me to conceive of a better administration or one closer to Israel than that of President Reagan and Secretary Shultz. If anybody wants U.S. involvement in the peace process—and frankly, we know that without it a peace process cannot take place—he has to make an enormous effort to ensure that this administration, which is left with less than a year in power, is the one involved in the process. If this administration is prepared to get involved today, we should be thankful, take advantage of this opportunity, and make an effort to have it succeed.

If anybody tries to turn the tables on this administration by mentioning the Reagan plan, pressure, etc., he will have significantly increased the difficulty in working with any other future U.S. Administration. The alternative, possibly the most difficult from our point of view, would be a return to what happened on 1 October 1977; namely, the agreement between Carter and Brezhnev, an agreement between the two superpowers on a solution to the Middle East problem. None of us would like to see this, and it seems to me we have several months to prevent such a danger by cooperating with the Americans for a political arrangement, while the Reagan administration is still in power. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Earlier we mentioned the possibility that the Shultz initiative will fail, which would mean that the riots and uprising in the territories will continue. You mentioned Egypt. Do you think Egypt will long be able to sit on the sidelines without adopting any political means to express its loathing for the situation and its solidarity with the uprising?

[Beilin] Look, I do not think the events in the territories will threaten to undermine our relations with Egypt. After all, it is clear to the Egyptians what is taking place here. This is, after all, not something done by Israel. This is not an Israeli invasion of quiet villages, nor Israelis doing harm to innocent children. This is a very difficult problem of riots or an uprising, call it what you will. Also, this is an ongoing problem. Israel is making quite a few efforts to prevent casualties. We are not always successful, as was the case today, but I do not think that the Egyptians, surely not the Egyptians, will accuse us of anything they can let go unnoticed. Therefore, if you ask me, I do not envision any tragedy in our relations with Egypt against this background. I think that the very occurrence of the incidents in the territories suffices to get us to make an effort to promote a peace process, because we are the ones who do not want to see the incidents continue.

[Golan] Earlier you mentioned the correct move made by former Prime Minister Menahem Begin with his autonomy agreement. The autonomy agreement stipulated 5 years, while the Shultz initiative now wants to shorten this period greatly, almost to preclude the possibility of examining autonomy for any length of time. Are you happy with this?

[Beilin] I think it is premature to enter negotiations now on the duration of autonomy. There are many other questions involved here. In principle, I would say this: The Camp David autonomy agreement is far-reaching. There were some people—even Yig'al Allon, who is not considered a radical—who did not support Camp David at the time, since they viewed it as a path to a Palestinian state. I think that the principle laid down in Camp David regarding the character of the autonomy is logical and wise.

As for specifics, such as the number of years, I believe there definitely is room to discuss this with the Americans, and ultimately with the Jordanians and Palestinians. It is very possible that we will be able to convince them that the 5-year term is reasonable for them too, so as to build the so-called moves of mutual trust on the basis of which it will also be possible to reach a permanent arrangement. In any event, I am not proposing that Israel announce today that it is prepared to have the interim agreement shortened to 1, 2, or 3 instead of 5 years. [passage omitted]

PLO Urges Boycott of Shultz

TA220915 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
22 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Gay Bekhor, Oren Kohen, and Shim'on Alqavetz]

[Text] The PLO yesterday made it clear once and for all that it has instructed the representatives of the Palestinians in the territories to boycott U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to Israel. The six personages who were supposed to meet with Shultz were also personally threatened. Last night on Baghdad radio, 'Arafat repeated the threat, following which the six—Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Sari Nusaybah, Sa'id Kan'an, Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, and 'Izz al-Din al-Rayyan—decided to cancel their participation in the planned meeting.

Fayiz Abu Rahmah, the head of the Gaza Strip Bar Association and one of the six, reacted to 'Arafat's announcement last night: "Nobody can say yes when the head of the organization says no. We coordinate with 'Arafat and must not violate his orders." Despite this, and in an unusual move, many personages in the territories decided to come out against 'Arafat's announcement, claiming that it is absolutely necessary for a Palestinian delegation to meet with the U.S. secretary of state.

Shultz is scheduled to land in Israel on Thursday.

'Notables' 'Insist' on Meeting

TA211250 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
21 Feb 88 p 3

[Report by Uri Nir]

[Text] The Palestinian notables who were authorized by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz insist that the meeting should be held, despite a PLO official spokesman's announcement that nobody was authorized to meet with Shultz and that the meeting should not take place. Some of the personages said last night that the meeting is "absolutely necessary," and that they intend to exert heavy pressure on the PLO leadership to have it lift the ban. It is to this end that a meeting took place yesterday between several prominent figures from the territories and special U.S. envoy Wat Cluverius at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

Cluverius serves as a shuttle ambassador in the Middle East on behalf of Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy. People who attended the meeting said that the delegation of residents from the territories included several PLO supporters, several Jordan supporters, and even a Gaza representative who is identified with the Muslim Brotherhood.

HA'ARETZ has learned that the Palestinian personages asked the Americans to exert pressure on Israel to enable notables from the territories to go abroad to meet with PLO leaders in order to persuade the organization's leadership to agree to the meeting with Shultz. Alternatively, they asked that the Americans exert influence on the PLO to allow them to meet with the U.S. secretary of state.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent learned yesterday, from people who attended the meeting at the U.S. Consulate, that the list of the six personages was relayed to the territories by a U.S. journalist who had met with 'Arafat abroad and who even recorded it on tape in 'Arafat's voice. The recording apparently reached U.S. diplomats in Israel.

In several West Bank sites yesterday one could see slogans rejecting the Shultz plan spray-painted on the walls of houses. The latest leaflet on behalf of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which was disseminated over the weekend, also leveled harsh criticism at Shultz and called for sabotaging his peace initiative.

Nevertheless, the above-mentioned public figures in the territories say they are convinced that the meeting with Shultz is absolutely necessary and that it is an opportunity which should not be missed.

Attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah of Gaza said in this context that he very much hopes there will be a consensus among the Palestinians in support of the meeting with Shultz, and that he and his friends are still waiting for the "go-ahead" from the PLO. "It makes no difference if some in the area attack us," Abu Rahmah said. "There will always be such people, even if the PLO agrees to the meeting."

Rashad al-Shawwa of Gaza said: "I believe it will not be right to boycott the meeting. We must meet with him."

One of the other personages slated to meet with Shultz said: "The general framework of the Shultz program is positive, and I believe there is something to talk about."

Leaflet Outlines Protest Plan

TA211233 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Shefi Gabay]

[Text] "The Unified National Command of the Uprising," the new leadership of the PLO supporters in the territories, devotes "Leaflet No 8," which was distributed yesterday, to outlining a detailed plan of action for this week, meant to express popular opposition to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The contents of the leaflet were broadcast on Radio Monte Carlo yesterday.

Following are the details of the order:

Sunday: Demonstrations by Christians and hoisting the PLO flags following prayers in the churches.

Monday: The inhabitants are asked to come en masse to the graves of those killed during the disturbances and to visit the families of the victims.

Tuesday: A mass hunger strike until the evening and sit-down strikes at the offices of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, Palestinian women's organizations, and the buildings housing the national Palestinian organizations in the territories and in East Jerusalem.

Wednesday: A general strike and closing all the streets and alleys with roadblocks.

Thursday: Self-imposed curfews and chanting and wailing from the rooftops of houses.

Friday: Mass demonstrations following Friday prayers, hoisting PLO flags, and chanting slogans.

Saturday: Curfew violations. The intention is to have the inhabitants leave their homes in an organized manner for violent mass demonstrations.

The leaflet includes sharp attacks on Rabin, Shamir, collaborators, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, and former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa.

Police, IDF on 'Special Alert'

TA210533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The police are on a special alert in the Jerusalem area for the Shultz visit. Some 1,500 policemen will be on duty from today. In a personal message to every policeman, Police Commissioner David Kraus says that the application of force must be within the framework of the law, and no violations will be tolerated. Kraus says that any unjustified behavior toward Palestinians deepens their hostility. The police commissioner also orders policemen to allow reporters to do their job.

The IDF expects a flare-up of violence in the territories, and is also going on special alert. Soldiers' orders are to act swiftly to forestall any disorders.

Shamir on Inner Cabinet Debate

TA202012 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister has rejected the Alignment's demand to hold a political debate in the Cabinet tomorrow prior to the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East.

Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that due to his concern over the possibility of leaks, the prime minister has decided to hold the political debate in the Inner Cabinet rather than in the Cabinet plenum.

Alignment ministers have voiced sharp criticism of the prime minister's decision. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said today that now, at a time when more than ever before Israel needs responsible leadership with vision, one capable of taking political action, Yitzhaq Shamir is running away from responsibility, functioning as a party leader rather than as prime minister.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that for the state of Israel, a territorial compromise is not a concession, but salvation. He said this in a meeting with a delegation of Canadian Parliament members.

Our correspondent further reports that so far no meeting has been scheduled between the prime minister and the vice prime minister to coordinate political stands on the eve of Shultz' visit.

The prime minister met yesterday with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, but no details of the meeting have been released.

The U.S. Secretary of State is due to arrive in Israel next Thursday, and considerable tension can be perceived in Jerusalem in anticipation of the visit.

Cabinet Discusses Territories, Shultz Visit

TA211738 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Cabinet today discussed the events in the territories. Minister Rabin said that irregularities by IDF soldiers are being dealt with very seriously, adding that it is impossible to define for the soldiers what an illegal order is. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir postponed the political debate. Labor Party Ministers Tzur and Shahal protested this decision on the eve of the arrival of Secretary of State George Shultz. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] [Frankel] After hearing about disturbances, civil rebellion, and popular uprising, the Cabinet today heard a new definition for the events in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the events were a conflict between nationalist factions. What is needed is patience and an understanding of the meaning of the conflict.

For the first time the Cabinet held a discussion on the issue of irregular behavior by IDF soldiers in a number of incidents in the territories. Rabin said these actions are being treated very seriously, but noted that it was impossible to define an illegal order beforehand. The IDF does not use beatings as a means of punishment. We deal with each case when we learn about it, but they cannot be avoided altogether, Rabin said. The defense minister said youths who join the IDF face the task with great fortitude. Visitors from abroad, including those from several Western countries, have no moral right to attack Israel on this issue, he added.

A short confrontation developed on the question of whether the ministers should have to deal with IDF irregularities. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i believes this is the duty of the IDF and the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, and that such matters should not be dealt with by other authorities. Minister Yitzhaq Navon asked whether the Cabinet should deal only with budgetary issues.

On the political front, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the debate prior to Secretary of State George Shultz' arrival should take place in the Inner Cabinet, since it was set up for this very purpose. Shamir said he wants to hold the discussion in a closed forum in order to reach a unified stand, but noted that he has no illusions and knows what reality is.

Labor Ministers Tzur and Shahal, on the other hand, demanded a debate in the Cabinet before Shultz' arrival. Minister Moshe Qatzav believes it is definitely possible for the two parties in the Cabinet to reach a unanimous position.

[Qatzav] The areas of agreement between the Likud and Alignment are much wider than is believed. Even those areas of minimal agreement between the Likud and Alignment are still not acceptable to any Arab country. Therefore, it would be best to decide on a united stand, since the Arab countries reject any proposal or idea we put forward. It should be clear that had Labor been in power on its own it would not have succeeded in making any breakthrough.

[Frankel] On the other end of the political spectrum, Minister Moshe Shahal of the Alignment is angry that Secretary of State George Shultz will hear in Jerusalem a stand adopted by political parties and not the position of a unified Cabinet.

[Shahal] In the current situation, half of the Cabinet cannot express its views and positions on an issue vital to Israel's very existence. I reiterate what I told the prime minister today: I do not mind if there is no Cabinet debate, but if I do not make my views known I cannot take responsibility for one of the most important issues now on the agenda.

[Frankel] The Cabinet today heard reports on alternatives for the cancelled Lavi project. The discussion was held within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. [passage omitted] [end recording]

UK Labor Leader Continues Territories Tour

Unaware Motorcade Stoned

TA181313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] The Gaza Strip was relatively calm today, with no special incidents taking place there. Neil Kinnock, head of the British Labor Party, toured the Gaza Strip today. Kinnock's motorcade was stoned as it was driving through the Jabalyah refugee camp. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the Gaza Strip:

[Begin recording] [Amir] Neil Kinnock toured the Jabalyah refugee camp today. He was deeply impressed by life in the camp. Several children stoned the convoy, and following the tour Kinnock said that he did not notice the incident:

[Kinnock, in English] I didn't know until we actually got to the checkpoint that vehicles behind us had a few stones thrown at them. I suppose they are some small children who are going to throw stones at anything that moves, basically, but we experienced no trouble at all of that kind.

[Amir translates the above and continues] After being permitted to tour the Al-Shati' refugee camp, which is under curfew, Kinnock said there is a large military presence in the area—IDF vehicles and patrols—and that parts of the area are under curfew:

[Kinnock, in English] The extensive military presence obviously can't be missed by anyone. The lorries on the road, the jeeps carrying six to eight soldiers, the foot patrols, the curfew itself, the way in which the streets are stripped of people, and then of course the very nature of the camp itself, which is a vast slum, it's hell.

[Amir translates the above and continues] Neil Kinnock later visited Al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza, where more than 10 people who were wounded from shots and blows during the disturbances have been hospitalized. The relative calm today in the Gaza Strip was expressed in only a few cases of stone throwing, tire burning and hoisting of flags. Studies were halted in two schools due to incitement, and near Al-Zahiriyah a gathering of some 20 residents who threw stones was dispersed.

Holds News Conference

TA191355 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Report on a news conference held by British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock by Gid'on Remez at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem prior to his departure on 19 February—recorded]

[Text] Israel's security is the Labor Party's supreme interest, Kinnock said, but this is also connected to the fulfillment of the Palestinians' aspirations in the territories. Kinnock tried to persuade Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during their meeting this morning, and has in fact already reached an understanding with the Alignment leaders, of the need to begin accelerating the peace process so as to eliminate the frustration felt by young Palestinians in the territories.

Kinnock brandished two sawed-off bullets which he exhibited as proof shown to him in Gaza of attacks with live ammunition on Palestinians during dispersals of riots. Nevertheless, he emphasized, it is clear to me and I have been convinced that if this is being done, it is not sanctioned or approved by the Israeli Government.

[Kinnock, in English] I think that if such implements are being used, then they are being used without any form of permission or direction or acceptance or endorsements by the Israeli army and the Israeli authorities. Of that I have no doubt. But that is a requirement for the firm establishment...

[Remez interrupts, translates, and continues] Nevertheless, the Israeli Government and the authorities must make sure that this is driven home to everyone concerned in the territories.

Alleges Explosive Bullets Used

TA191826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Neil Kinnock, leader of the British opposition Labor Party, says Israel's security is the most important element in his party's Middle East policy. Speaking at a press conference ending his official visit to Israel, Kinnock said that Israel's security is dependent on the fulfillment of Palestinian rights. The British Labor leader said he reached agreement with Israeli Labor Party leaders and tried to persuade Prime Minister Shamir of the necessity of speeding up the peace process in order to end the despair of young Palestinians in the territories. Reporter Gid'on Remez asked Kinnock what grounds he had for his charge that Israeli forces had used explosive bullets against Palestinian demonstrators:

[Begin Kinnock recording] I can only speak on the basis of the physical evidence and the testimony which I saw from a doctor who has extensive experience of gunshot wounds gained in the Rhodesia conflict, in Lebanon, and in Vietnam. The one I saw was an x-ray which showed shattering of the bone and flesh consistent with the use of an explosive bullet. But I have in my pocket two filed small-caliber bullets that were taken from the bodies—fortunately living bodies—of two people shot in Gaza.

And I think that if such implements are being used, then they are being used without any form of permission, or direction, or acceptance, or endorsement by the Israeli army and the Israeli authorities. Of that I have no doubt. But that is a requirement for the firmest action to be taken to ensure that this kind of missile is never used, and I am certain that they would record the same concern as myself if they could see the same evidence that I have seen. [end recording]

IDF Denies Kinnock Claim

TA192114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] IDF sources have flatly denied the accusations leveled by British opposition leader Neil Kinnock to the effect that our soldiers are using explosive ammunition in defiance of international law. In a news conference in Jerusalem Kinnock presented two .22-mm bullets which he claimed had been removed from demonstrators shot in Gaza. He said the bullets had been sawed off in order to cause greater damage. In reaction to the charge, the IDF spokesman told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the accusation is totally unfounded, and that the IDF does not have such bullets.

Rabin Calls Events in Territories 'Civil War'

TA220536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The defense minister has warned that it is impossible to control 1.5 million Palestinians by force. Therefore, territorial compromise is the desirable solution. If we try to control the Palestinians by force, we will turn into a racist country, the defense minister warned. He emphasized that what is taking place in the territories is not terrorism, because no one is shooting at us, but a civil war waged by women and children, with the help of television. The defense minister said this at a Labor Party meeting in Tel Aviv's Hatiqva neighborhood.

Attorney General Advises Rabin on Illegal Orders

TA220959 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The attorney general has informed the defense minister that force should not be used as a means of punishment or humiliation, or after a demonstration has already been dispersed. He said that permitting use of force for such purposes is an illegal order.

The attorney general called on the defense minister to issue these instructions to all the relevant officials in the defense establishment, and to disseminate the correct instructions on the use of force to commanders at all levels in the IDF.

Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that these instructions were included in a letter the attorney general sent to Minister Rabin. He stressed that his office received many complaints that inhabitants in the territories were being humiliated, and that this gives rise to the suspicion that the definition of irregular orders does not reflect reality. The attorney general stressed to the defense minister that it is essential to clarify what is permitted and what is forbidden in order to ease the heavy moral burden already borne by soldiers deployed in the territories.

IDF Psychologists on Use of 'Excessive Force'

TA211156 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] A report issued by two army psychologists at the request of Defense Minister Rabin says soldiers have been using force in destroying property and breaking hands and legs, even when not in the act of quelling disturbances. The report blames the phenomenon on mistaken orders relayed by junior officers. It also says there are many young officers and soldiers who are guilty of using excessive force in cases of relatively minor disturbances. The report calls for immediate, decisive action to remedy the situation.

Consultations were held over the weekend on IDF policy regarding the territories, particularly with regard to the issue of beatings. Taking part, amongst others, were the attorney general and the army's judge advocate general. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says that Attorney General Harish has sent a letter on the matter to Defense Minister Rabin, but a senior source says it is not an official directive, and military sources say that no new new directive to the troops has been issued by the army judge advocate general's office.

Fighting Ability 'Impaired'

TA220657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Within a few days, official guidelines will be disseminated throughout the IDF on the issue of obeying orders and distinguishing between legal and illegal orders. This is reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

The chief IDF psychologist confirms that an army survey indicates that 70 percent of the soldiers in the territories feel that their fighting ability has been impaired; 65 percent of the soldiers witnessed incidents involving harsh conduct toward the residents of the territories; 92 percent of the soldiers who participated in the survey expressed full confidence in their commanders' decisions.

Tel Aviv Police Accused of Beating Arabs

TA220547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Tel Aviv Police are investigating an incident in which uniformed policemen are said to have beaten up eight Arabs. This took place on Friday night after police stormed a Tel Aviv apartment where Arabs were living. The police allegedly searched the apartment and beat the Arabs, without any explanation. One person was hospitalized with broken bones. Police say if the officers exceeded their authority, they will be punished.

Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said the incident is the first of its kind, and is very serious. Speaking in Herzliya, Bar-Lev said he is worried that events in the territories are affecting Israeli morals. He added that the report has not yet been verified.

More Unrest, Casualties Reported in Territories

Rioters Beaten in Jabalyah

TA191634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] IDF forces pursued a youth who rioted in Gaza this afternoon and who fled to Gaza's Al-Ahali Hospital. The youth was apprehended in the hospital's administration wing. Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned from the hospital's administration that a medical team tried to prevent the soldiers from entering the hospital but was pushed aside, after which the soldiers, disregarding the team's protests, entered the hospital and apprehended the youth. A local representative of the IDF spokesman told our correspondent that he had no report of the incident.

An IDF force dispersed a mass procession in the Jabalyah refugee camp this afternoon. The demonstrators left the mosque waving PLO flags and chanting nationalist slogans. Local residents claim that the procession was dispersed with tear gas, rubber bullets, shots in the air, and clubs. They also said that four demonstrators were detained, while others were beaten. A representative of the IDF spokesman confirmed that a mass procession of demonstrators took place, but said that it had been dispersed without force.

Arab 'Dignitaries' Protest

TA191734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Jerusalem was calm this afternoon, with only two disturbances recorded. Youths hurled stones at a border police patrol near Herod's Gate. Two youths were detained. In the village of 'Anata, children hurled stones at cars. The stone throwers were dispersed, and one of them was detained. This was reported by our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum.

Elsewhere, a protest assembly against the events in the territories took place in the village of Al-Taiyiba. Our correspondent Bassam Jabir reports that the participants included heads of local councils and dignitaries from the Israeli Arab sector. One of the speakers was HADASH Knesset Member Tawfiq Tubi. Among the demands raised at the assembly was the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel.

Arabs Interrupt Jewish Prayers

TA191832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] This report just in from the newsroom: About 200 Arabs rioted this evening during Jewish prayers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs [Makhpelah Cave] in Hebron. A Voice of Israel reporter says the Arabs spread out prayer mats in the hall where the Jews were at prayer, and when soldiers ordered them to leave, attacked the soldiers and were expelled by force. The situation in Hebron is now quiet.

30 Detained in Majdal Shams

TA200911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The number of people detained following the riots in Majdal Shams last week has reached 30. This is reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar. This morning 15 burned tires were found at the entrance to Majdal Shams.

1 Shot, 1 Wounded in Ramallah

TA201152 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] This story just in from the newsroom: In Ramallah one Arab demonstrator has been shot to death and another wounded by border police. One border policeman was injured by a stone. A border police jeep was stopped by a roadblock of stones and the rioters then began pelting the jeep with stones, injuring the border policeman. Security sources told the Voice of Israel that the border policemen opened fire only after their lives were endangered.

More on Death in Ramallah

TA201434 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] An Arab youth was killed and six wounded by IDF fire during today's riots in the territories. The youth was killed in Ramallah in an incident that began when a border police jeep was halted by a stone barrier and repeatedly hit by stones, bricks, and bottles hurled by the residents from nearby roofs. One policeman was slightly wounded. A border policeman was cocking his weapon to shoot in the air when he was hit by a stone. He fell to the ground, his gun went off, and a bullet hit the youth.

Three youths were slightly wounded in the village of Bani Na'im following the stoning of policemen there. Three more residents were wounded in Samaria's village of Tubas.

Boy Shot in Tulkarm By IDF

TA201828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A 12-year old boy was killed and a 16-year old youth was wounded by IDF fire in the Tulkarm refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the circumstances of the shooting are unclear. The IDF has launched an investigation. Our correspondent notes that the Tulkarm refugee camp has been under curfew for over 1 week. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that a Molotov cocktail was hurled this morning at a police station in Umm al-Fahm. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. An investigation has been launched.

The police are also investigating yesterday's incident involving a Molotov cocktail thrown at the Hamashbir Hamerkazi building in Nazareth. The police have detained 3 persons in connection with the case. [passage omitted]

3 Wounded in Khan Yunus

TA211345 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Three Khan Yunus youths were wounded at noon by shots fired by IDF soldiers who were dispersing a violent demonstration near the Khan Yunus town hall. The demonstrators threw stones at the soldiers who called on them to disperse. Following warning shots and additional efforts to disperse the rioters, the soldiers fired at their feet. Two sustained leg wounds and one was wounded in his right hand. The three were transferred to hospitals in Khan Yunus and Gaza.

At the same time, a violent demonstration developed in the Khan Yunus refugee camp. Tires were burned and stones were thrown. The security forces dispersed the demonstrators and imposed a curfew on the refugee camp, a curfew which has already been lifted. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that quiet prevailed in the rest of the Gaza Strip.

2 West Bank Residents Killed

TA211632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Two inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria were killed today, one by IDF fire. One of the casualties was in Dayr 'Ammar in the Ramallah area, the other was in Nabulus. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a youth tried to stab an IDF soldier in the Nabulus casbah. The soldier was wounded, but his colleagues shot the assailant and killed him.

In a second incident, in Ra's al-'Ayn, an Arab driver tried to run over a soldier. The soldier was unhurt.

An initial investigation into the incident in the village of Dayr 'Ammar showed that there were no IDF forces in the village. Local inhabitants reported that during the incident an unidentified Israeli vehicle was traveling in the area.

Three inhabitants of Khan Yunus were slightly wounded by IDF fire.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1558 GMT on 21 February reports that "Three inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria were killed today. Two were shot by IDF soldiers in Nabulus and the third was killed in Dayr 'Ammar, but in the latter incident the circumstances are still unclear."]

Youth Shot in W. Bank Riot

TA212026 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] A youth was shot in the chest by IDF soldiers in the village of Silat al-Harithiyah in Samaria. He was brought to 'Afula Hospital in satisfactory condition. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told that there was a serious riot in the village. The soldiers fired small caliber weapons, having failed to disperse the riot with tear gas and rubber bullets.

A youth was killed earlier in Nabulus when he was traveling in a vehicle that tried to run over a group of soldiers. The soldiers were attacked a short time earlier by three youths wielding knives. One soldier was stabbed, sustaining slight wounds.

A resident of the village of Dayr 'Ammar was killed by a bullet. It is not known who fired the shot.

IDF Investigating Death

TA211510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] A Palestinian youngster was killed by shots from a firearm in the village of Dayr 'Ammar in the Ramallah area. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of his death. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Army has closed off the vicinity of the village.

IDF Fire Caused Tulkarm Death

TA220626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] A debriefing indicates that the 12-year-old boy from Tulkarm who was killed there the day before yesterday was wounded by a bullet or a ricochet fired by an IDF officer. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that it transpires that the officer fired several shots in order to extricate his soldiers in the course of a riot. He testified that he did not know that anybody was hurt by the shots.

More on W. Bank Casualties

TA221028 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and 'Ezra Aviran]

[Excerpt] Four Palestinians, two of them from Nabulus, were killed yesterday during a day of violent demonstrations in the West Bank. One of the men killed was Ramz Abu Hinara, 23, who tried to stab a soldier in the casbah. The soldier shot and killed his assailant. The second fatality was Rajib Sulayman Abu 'Amarah, 29, who tried to run down soldiers with his vehicle. He was also shot and killed. The third fatality was Ahmad Abu Salahiyah, 60, who got caught up in a violent demonstration which was dispersed with tear gas. He died of asphyxiation in the hospital. The circumstances surrounding the death of the fourth casualty, which occurred in the Dayr 'Ammar refugee camp in the Ramallah area, are unclear. An Israeli vehicle was attacked by camp residents, and the occupants fired at the demonstrators. The dead man, an inhabitant of the village [as published], is Kamal Mumad Faris, 24.

On the circumstances leading to the death of the man who died of asphyxiation: Our correspondent was told by the Al-Maqasid al-Khayriyah Hospital in East Jerusalem that Israelis were asked to disclose the chemical compound of the tear gas in order to enable treatment of those harmed by the gas, but the request was rejected with the claim that it is a secret formula.

In the evening, violent demonstrations again broke out in Nabulus and many wounded were reported to have been taken to hospitals. [passage omitted]

Delay in Deportations Noted

TA220650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Relative quiet or subdued calm prevails in the Gaza Strip. Security elements believe that this has been achieved by a calculated deployment of numerous forces in the area, coupled with the use of administrative detentions and nightly detentions based on lists which are prepared in advance. A military source assessed last night that the four candidates for deportation will not be expelled if relative quiet is maintained in the region. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

Twenty-nine administrative detentions have been imposed in the Gaza Strip so far, for periods of up to 6 months; approximately 10 such orders were carried out last month. One of the detainees turned himself in after having been wanted for a long time. A military source said that another person who was issued an administrative detention order fled to Egypt. According to this source, the IDF continues to detain every rioter or agitator on whom information is collected. The detentions are carried out at night, according to prepared lists, and sometimes number 25 per night. Thus the number of detainees in the Ansar 2 detention camp has risen from 480 about 3 weeks ago to more than 700 today, despite releases as a result of goodwill gestures and despite the transfer of prisoners to jails inside Israel.

It should be mentioned that the attorneys strike is continuing in the Gaza Strip. There are no releases on bail, and all defendants who are brought to the military court in Gaza systematically deny the charges attributed to them. This seems to have clogged the system and resulted in crowded conditions in the detention camp, which was expanded to accommodate about 700 detainees. The striking attorneys are aware that due to the strike, even suspects who could be released on bail and suspects who could have been freed as a result of legal intervention remain in detention. Yet the attorneys are torn between their moral and professional duty and the threats by the Shabab against renewing their activities. These threats were accompanied by damage to their property on more than one occasion. In the framework of the efforts to end the strike, the military authorities allowed the attorneys to pay visits to detainees in the detention camp 3 times a week. An order to release 30 detainees was issued yesterday, and some have already been released, after conferring with their attorneys.

Another matter is the implementation of the deportation orders. As may be recalled, four Gaza Strip residents are sitting in the Gaza jail awaiting a deportation decision to be made by the defense establishment. A military source assessed last night that these deportation orders will not be implemented due to developments in the region, including the relative calm and the sensitivity of world public opinion. Others believe that it is only a question of waiting until the Supreme Court rules in the case of three other deportees who appealed to this court, including the person who is considered the spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad. Whatever may be the case, it is clear that delaying the deportations has prevented an exacerbation of the disturbances in the region.

Al-Khasawinah Views Al-Rifa'i Arab Tour

JN211349 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has resumed his Arab tour. He left on a brief visit to Saudi Arabia during which he will convey a message from King Husayn to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Rifa'i's visit is part of the mission entrusted to him by King Husayn to convey messages to Arab kings and presidents to brief them on the results of his recent tour of European capitals and the Vatican. This was stated to our radio by Jordanian Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah. Al-Khasawinah said the messages deal with efforts by the Jordanian monarch to clarify the Arab stand on the Palestinian question and ways to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Al-Khasawinah said Al-Rifa'i's talks in Saudi Arabia will also deal with the latest U.S. moves in the region represented by the visits of the U.S. Administration envoys to the region. He said Al-Rifa'i will consult with Arab brothers on safeguarding a unified Arab stand in the desire to achieve a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to coordinate Arab stands in the talks scheduled to take place with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his projected visit to the area.

The Jordanian prime minister had visited Damascus, Cairo, and Baghdad last week for the same purpose.

Al-Rifa'i Returns

JN211845 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i this evening returned to Amman after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Minister Welcomes Independent Palestinian State

JN211058 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Feb (WAKH)—Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has asserted that Jordan welcomes and accepts any efforts leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, given Jordan's pan-Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause. In a statement to the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ pubished today, Al-Khasawinah said that his country's policy is based on rejecting the policy of imposing faits accomplis and supporting the convocation of the international peace conference attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, with the aim of realizing Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, establishing the legitimate Palestinian people's rights, and realizing just peace in the region.

The Jordanian information minister said that his country had so far not received any U.S. peace initiative, but that the Palestinian uprising had forced the U.S. administration to reconsider the policy of imposing faits accomplis which Israel is trying to implement in the occupied territory. However, the minister said the U.S. attitude had not reached the extent of an initative because Philip Habib did not convey to Jordan anything to this effect.

Al-Khasawinah denied that Jordan prevented or attempted to prevent citizens from exercising their right to freely express sentiments of solidarity with their kinfolk in the occupied territory, adding that measures were taken only against those who try to bypass this reality, this objective.

UN Envoy Presents King Husayn's Harvard Address

JN210945 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 88 p 1,5

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has reaffirmed Jordan's rejection of any bilateral agreement to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and reiterated that only a comprehensive and lasting solution covering all aspects of the conflict could restore peace in the Middle East.

"What we have always needed and wanted in the Middle East is a comprehensive and lasting settlement, one that our future generations can live with," the King said in an address delivered Friday on his behalf at Harvard University by Jordan's United Nations Ambasador Abdullah Salah. "Any bilateral agreement between only two parties in the conflict would result in no more than a stop-gap measure devoid of any real peace."

"For any settlement to hold," the King said, "it must be honoured by the parties involved in the conflict and guaranteed by the international community, whose involvement is necessary to ensure the permanency of the agreement reached."

The King's statement, addressed to the 1988 Harvard National Model United Nations, reaffirmed the Arab call for a U.N.-sponsored international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict with the participation of all parties involved, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

"Any attempt to exclude the Palestinians will only end in failure," the King said. "No process can ever succeed, nor any peace ever last, without the participation and consent of the primarily, injured party, the Palestinians."

In his address to the forum, which has chosen as its theme "the role of the less developed countries in international politics," the King reviewed the history of the United Nations since its inception and said: "In the past several years, we have witnessed a disturbing tendency to discredit the United Nations and cast doubts on its effectiveness. These attacks, which come from different quarters and are often reinforced by the media, have somehow tarnished the U.N.'s image and led to a widespread loss of faith in its intrinsic value as the world's peacekeeper and guardian of human rights. "

"It is time now that the Untied Nations be given the opportunity to realise its full potential as a peacemaker," the King said. "We in the Arab world, as well as the majority of nations internationally, repeat again our call to the United Nations to serve as the forum for an international peace conference....

The King also referred to the Iran-Iraq war and called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 on the seven-year-old war.

Following are major excerpts from the King's address:

"On that momentous day of October 24, 1945, when the charter of the Untied Nations was signed in San Francisco, there were no doubts or cynicism about whether or not a world organisation dedicated to achieving universal peace, freedom, security and justice would work. The dominating spirit then, to a world battered by war, was that it had to work. We need more of that spirit now.

"Many countries, especially in the West, accuse the United Nations of becoming a forum for political rhetoric and dispute, which they believe has paralysed its effectiveness. They complain that the General Assembly, instead of functioning as the international parliament it was meant to be, has become an unproductive, selfserving arena controlled by a bloc of Third World countries.

"The less developed nations of the world, on the other hand, charge that the United Nations has been rendered ineffective by the conflicting interests and polarisation of the superpowers, who often use their privilleged veto power to serve their own ends. These countries look to the Security Council, as the political decision-making body of the U.N., to act without bias on the issues brought before it. Instead, they find their regional interests, sometimes even their national existence, threateneed by the global East-West rivalry for power and influence.

"There is considerable truth in both complaints. But the problem, in essence, reflects a more fundamental reality. In a way, the United Nations is passing through a time of transition between what was and what is to be—in which its member countries appear to be facing a decisive test between the parallel ideals of secure national existence and higher commitment to the international whole.

"That the United Nations has come this far is a testimonial to the enduring value of the principles upon which it was founded. While its efforts on the political level have not lived up to expectations, its work to alleviate the economic, social and humanitarian ills of our global family are above reproach.

"The primary goal of the U.N., however,—and I will again quote from its Charter—is "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." In realising this aim, we cannot but admit that the U.N. has fallen short. True, in many instances, conflicts have been resolved or at least contained. But the front page of our daily newspaper keeps reminding us of the scores of other unresolved conflicts raging around the world, the blatant acts of violence, injustice and repression, that continue to darken our vision of peace, of a new, equitable international order.

"In the Middle East, the promise of peace has eluded us for as many years as the United Nations has been in existence. No other issue in the world has occupied as much of its energy and concern as has the Arab-Israeli conflict. And no other issue better reveals what the United Nations can and cannot do. I will not dwell on the long history of cause and effect, of past mistakes, failed initiatives and missed opportunities. The protracted absence of peace in our region has brought us all to a crucial and decisive stage.

The problem, from our perspective, is clear and simple: a grievous injustice has been committed; it must be rectified. Its roots go back to 1947, when the United Nations partition plan led to the establishment of the state of Israel in the Arab land of Palestine. In the four decades since then, the Arab-Israeli conflict has spawned five wars and taken its toll in immeasurable human suffering. The initial injustice, which was compounded in 1967, is now overwhelming in its human and territorial proportions.

"The magnitude of the injustice that has been perpetrated on the Palestinian people can be summed up in one compelling statement: An entire people of more than four million men, women, and children have been deprived by force of their entire ancestral homeland and denied their inherent right to national identity and self-determination. For 20 years now, in violation of every international principles of justice, Israel has persisted in the occupation of an entire land seized by force, to which it has absolutely no moral or legal right, and which it insists on claiming as its own.

"The recent uprising in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights has taught us once again that injustice left unredressed breeds a festering anger that inevitably erupts into violence. Experience has also taught us that every conflict left unresolved sows the seeds of wider and greater confrontation, deepening the wounds of injustice, victimising the innocent, and multiplying the forces of resentment. Through the years, we have cautioned and warned of the widening cycle of frustration and anger that would spill beyond the origin of the conflict and far beyond the territories in dispute. We need only reflect on the tragic sequence of events in Lebanon over the past 12 years to recognise how readily the Arab-Israeli conflict can serve as the catalyst of turmoil and violence.

"If we are to avert further disaster, there is only one choice—to marshall all our strength behind an immediate move toward peace. From the parties directly involved in the dispute, the challenge will require reciprocal accommodation, good will and trust. Effectively, it will require an active, unbiased mediation effort, equitably guided by the mechanism of the United Nations and supported by its international provision of the security guarantees upon which a just and lasting settlement will depend.

"In Security Council Resolution 242, the United Nations 20 years ago achieved a noteworthy political endeavour: It established a just, viable and universally accepted basis for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The principles of peace it embodies are rooted in the concept of the return of territory in exchange for peace, mutual recognition and security. they were reaffirmed several years later in Security Council Resolution 338, which made a second international call for their implementation. These principles, unanimously adopted by the Council, have been accepted by every party to the conflict.

"The current Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, which has been increasing in intensity day by day, is a stark reminder to all that the status quo cannot and must not be allowed to continue. Surely, Israel must realise that its brutal military measures against the West Bank and Gaza population, its deportation of more and more Palestinians, its building of additional settlements in the occupied territories, will only drive Palstinians into deeper agony and resentment and strengthen their opposition to the occupation. It will also seriously endanger the hope of future coexistence between Arabs and Israelis. Time is running out; now, more than ever before, the key to peace lies in firm, activated recognition of the human and political aspirations of the Palestinian people."

Daily Views Shultz' 'Difficult' Mideast Mission

JN201057 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Feb 88 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Shultz' Ideas Within the Israeli Perspective"]

[Text] Once again, more responsible voices in the world are heard exposing Israel's oppressive actions against the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, thereby indicating growing world condemnation and denunciation of these actions. Once again, voices are also heard calling for the immediate convocation of an international peace conference as the only means toward achieving a just and lasting peace.

British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock's visit to the occupied Arab territories and witness of Israel's terrorist and oppression campaign has made him decribed the situation as "hell." He also noted that the Israeli occupation authorities are using weapons and ammunition banned internationally.

Earlier, UN envoy Marrack Goulding had witnessed the same situation and revealed the enormous suffering under the oppression and harsh policies of the occupation.

At the same time, world voices representing states, governments, parties, and renowned figures are heard condemning the occupation and calling for peace on firm and just bases. Yet, Israel continues its intransigence and terrorism. Israel also continues to issue statements hostile to peace—statements rejecting all peace prospects and presenting outdated political proposals whose sole aim is to entrench the occupation and its objectives.

Within this Israeli viewpoint and perspective, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has made statements lacking any cohesion, integrated view, or the ability to present a viewpoint which considers the interests of the various parties, especially since these statements were being made under the name of a peace initiative.

The Shultz mission, at which the Israeli Likud has already fired the bullet of mercy because that mission has chosen to conform to the Israeli perspective, is viewed by many world nations as one that does not befit a superpwoer responsible for world peace, such as the United States.

If Shultz is still harping on concepts that are American in name but Israeli in substance, then his mission will be a difficult one. The Arab viewpoint on the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been firmed up by the historic Amman summit and consoldiated by the Arab consultations. These consider our people's uprising against the occupation natural and legitimate, a reaction to Israeli forces considered to be the root of this uprising.

If the Israeli extremism led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir still denies the Palestinian people's right to their territory and homeland, and continues to present hostile ideas and initiatives, then this trend now faces a dilemma: in the international sphere, where the circle of denuciation is expanding, and also in the internal sphere with the strengthening of the peace forces, which consider the Israeli decisionmakers' behavior blatant aggression that exposes the entire region to a disaster unless the Israelis acknowledge the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

Further on Kidnapping of Higgins, Response

More on Hizballah Arrests

NC191811 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] According to reports from the south this evening, Amal has been conducting extensive raids and arrests in the Tyre area as far south as Al-Nabatiyah under the pretext of searching for the U.S. officer. There is more to this than the search for Higgins. Amal is exploiting this issue to cover up the actions it is taking to strike at the growing Hizballah presence, which is directly supported by Iran. This raises the possibility that the tension might spread to [Beirut's] southern suburb and Al-Biqa', the areas where Hizballah has a more effective presence.

In a statement released this afternoon, Hizballah accused Amal of carrying out raids, during which it has arrested approximately 150 Hizballah members in the Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah areas, under the pretext of searching for the American hostage. The Hizballah statement noted that Amal gunmen stormed the Cultural Center of the Iranian Revolution, raided the Iranian Embassy's Islamic Center and ransacked both places. Another Amal group raided the so-called Islamic Resistance Notices Center and confiscated its electronic and radio equipment. Another group raided the home of Imam 'Abbas al-Musawi.

In an ambush in the Tyre area, Amal gunmen seized a vehicle and a quantity of weapons which a Hizballah member was transporting in his vehicle for his party.

The Hizballah statement also said that personnel at roadblocks set up by Amal are pursuing Hizballah members in a number of villages in the south. The Hizballah members are being cruelly insulted and carefully searched. A number of masked gunmen are present at the roadblocks.

In 'Aytat, in the Tyre area, a clash occured between Amal and Hizballah after a house was raided and a woman was killed in the raid.

A number of Hizballah scholars called for staging sit-ins in the mosques of Jibshit, Tyre, and Al-Ghaziyah to protest the practices carried out by Amal, according to the Hizballah statement.

Kidnappers 'Identified'

NC192155 Paris AFP in English 2134 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Feb (AFP)—The kidnappers of U.S. officer William Higgins have been identified, a senior Shi'ite Muslim militia official said Friday at this southern port city.

Da'ud Da'ud, an influential regional Amal leader, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE his militia had arrested six "accomplices" to Wednesday's kidnapping and that their confessions had helped identify the abductors.

The kidnappers were believed to be a "group of individuals," he said, without elaborating.

An Islamic fundamentalist group, the Organisation of the Oppressed in the World, said earlier Friday that it was holding Lt. Col. Higgins and accused him of being a member of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Amal sources said earlier that eight people, including two members of another Shi'ite group, the pro-Iranian Hizballah, were arrested, mostly in Tyre, 83 kilometres (52 miles) south of Beirut.

The search for Lt. Col. Higgins, deputy commander of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) that supervises a 1948 truce between Lebanon and Israel, was focused on the villages of Al-Siddiqin, 'Aytat, and Al-Bazuriyah, southeast of Tyre, the Amal official said.

Lt. Col. Higgins was abducted near Tyre as he returned from a meeting with the Amal leader in the port city, 'Abd al-Majid Salih.

Gunmen forced the officer out of his car and into the boot of a Volvo before driving off in the direction of villages east of Sidon, according to witnesses. His escorts were travelling in a vehicle ahead, Mr. Da'ud said.

The kidnappers transferred the officer first to a van, then into a Mercedes Benz, while their accomplices continued to drive around in the Volvo as a decoy, he added.

Mr. Da'ud commented that the U.S. officer had not taken the necessary precautions. "He had announced that he would be coming to Tyre five days earlier, allowing the kidnappers plenty of time to prepare the abduction."

Other Amal officials said Lt. Col. Higgins had often stated that he had worked for the Pentagon as a "close collaborator of Caspar Weinberger," the former U.S. secretary of defence.

Sit-in demonstrations were held after Friday prayers in the mosques of the southern villages of Ghaziyah and Jibshit to protest the detention by Amal of 150 people and the ransacking of the offices of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Tyre, Hizballah sources said.

Abu Nidal Group Accused

NC200830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0822 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (MENA)—The Abu Dhabi-based daily AL-ITTIHAD reports today that, according to U.S. and international diplomatic reports, elements of the Abu Nidal group kidnapped Colonel William Higgins, the U.S. national who heads a team of UNTSO observers in south Lebanon. The paper also cites the same sources as saying that the Abu Nidal group also is responsible for the abduction of two UNRWA employees in south Lebanon earlier this month.

Leader of Abduction 'Fled'

NC201129 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Da'ud Da'ud, Amal Movement official in the south, has said that he knows the names of all the individuals who participated in the abduction of U.S. national William Higgins. He expressed the hope that Higgins is still being held in the south. He added that his men had arrested a large number of those involved in the abduction, stressing that the leader of the operation has fled.

PLO Executive Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has stated that he is unaware of the identity of Higgins' kidnappers. He accused a pro-Iran group, most probably Hizballah, of kidnapping UNRWA employees Jan Stening and William Jorgensen on 5 February.

Hizballah Denies Allegations

NC201200 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1147 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] REUTER has cited a Hizballah statement in which the party denies any connection with the kidnappings. The statement accused the Amal Movement of arresting 150 Hizballah members during the storming operations in search for the kidnapped lieutenant colonel. The Amal Movement had earlier announced the detention of six Hizballah members on suspicion that they had been monitoring the officer's movement prior to his aduction.

Aimed at U.S. Diplomatic Moves

NC201311 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The abductions of UN officials, particularly U.S. Lt Col William Higgins, coincide with the active U.S. diplomatic campaign in the region. While Higgins' abduction is the apparent response by pro-Iranian fundamentalists to this campaign, according to an Arab diplomatic source in Beirut, the attacks against the foreigners in south Lebanon have led to a reshuffling of the cards and a distribution of roles among the local allies. They further revealed conflicts that had been hidden up to now and which turned into arrests and clashes between Hizballah and Amal and the start of a tirade between the Palestinians and Hizballah.

Quoting an Arab diplomatic source in Beirut, AFP reported today that the abudction of the U.S. colonel is the apparent response by pro-Iranian fundamentalists to the U.S. diplomatic campaign in the Middle East and is directed at Syria in particular.

AFP added that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's recent tour of the area and his 6-8 February visit to Damascus has alarmed these fundamentalists, who are present in south Lebanon, the Al-Biqa' Valley, and Beirut's southern suburb. Quoting the same source, AFP further said that the fundamentalists fear that they will be harmed as a result of any agreement between Damascus and Washington to solve the Lebanese crisis before this summer's presidential elections, particularly because they do not consider Lebanon as an independent entity but part of an Islamic republic which they want to set up.

The diplomatic source said that despite the Syrian statements that Murphy has not presented any real initiatives, the situation is not bleak. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz might stop in Syria for a short time during his forthcoming Middle East tour. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the Arab diplomatic source said that the fundamentalists' abduction of Higgins in an area controlled by the pro-Syrian Amal sought not only to strike at the United States, but also to warn Damascus against reaching any settlement with Washington, for which the fundamentalists would pay the price.

'Extreme Tension' in South

NC201253 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1228 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The search for U.S. Lt Col Higgins continues amid extreme tension between Amal and Hizballah. While the Amal Movement noted the arrest of eight fundamentalists, the Voice of Islam, the mouthpiece of Hizballah, has confirmed that Amal men arrested 150 party members and broke into the house of Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi in the south.

The radio of the Muslim fundamentalists, broadcasting from the Al-Biqa' Valley, has reported that masked UN soldiers took part in the storming operations mounted by Amal in the south.

'Masked' UN Troops in Search

NC201242 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Feb 20 (AFP)—Masked U.N. troops took part in searches in south Lebanon alongside the Shi'ite militia Amal in a bid to locate a kidnapped U.S. officer, the pro-Iranian Hizballah group said Saturday.

The group's radio station, Voice of Islam, said the troops were spotted during house-to-house searches in Shi'ite villages southeast of the port city of Tyre, 83 kilometres (52 miles) south of Beirut.

Amal has arrested some 150 Hizballah members since the kidnapping Wednesday of Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, the deputy commander of a U.N. observer group, the radio said in a broadcast from this region of eastern Lebanon.

Security sources in the south said Amal has arrested eight people and that one civilian was slightly wounded by gunfire Thursday in the Hizballah stronghold of 'Aytat during a search of the home of a Hizballah supporter.

Birri Holds News Conference

NC201447 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] In a news conference this afternoon, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said the abduction of the U.S. officer is an act of aggression against UNIFIL and the UN umbrella of the resistance in the south. He noted that this abduction follows the recent kidnapping of two UNRWA employees and a Christian priest, whose fate is still unknown. He said he believes the kidnappers of the priest are connected with the kidnappers of the U.S. officer.

Birri pointed out that the Amal Movement will fulfill its duty to maintain security and defend UNIFIL, adding: The defense of UNIFIL is tantamount to the defense of our kinfolk and existence. He noted that the accusation of any individual of being an agent as a pretext for committing an aggression against the south is not allowed.

Birri revealed that some people had been detained and they are being interrogated.

Asked about the possibility of a clash with the party to which the kidnappers belong, Birri said if those detained by the Amal Movement are innocent, there will be no clash and they will be released. However, he continued, if they are proven guilty and are seeking problems, then there will be a problem.

Khalaf Implicates Iran

NC201806 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Fatah's second in command, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], has accused a group linked to Iran, which might be Hizballah, of kidnapping William Jorgenson and Ian Stening. He noted that the same group is responsible for kidnapping Lt Col Higgins. He said he does not know the identity of the U.S. officer's abductors, but added that some of his aides have reported that the groups that refer to themselves as the organizations of the deprived or oppressed of the world are linked to Iran in one way or another. Abu Iyad said he believes Iran wants to exploit Higgins' abduction to make a new deal with the Americans.

Amal Holds 'Emergency Meeting'

NC201904 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The leaders of the Amal Movement's southern region held an emergency meeting today. The meeting was attended by Da'ud Da'ud, the Movement's Executive Committee chairman; Mahmud Faqih, the official in charge of the Movement's organizational affairs; 'Atif 'Awn, the official in charge of organizational affairs in the southern region; and 'Abd al-Majid Salih, the official in charge of political and information affairs. They discussed the situation resulting from the kidnapping of Lt Col William Richard Higgins, the American head of the UN observers team.

A statement was issued, condemning the kidnapping and regarding it an illegitimate act, condemned by all the eminent ulema and contrary to the Islamic creed. It is also contrary to our principles, the statement said. Such actions have led to the removal of confidence in our rights for life and liberty and have given Beirut and the southern suburb a gloomy outlook.

The statement regarded the kidnapping as a suspect act, whose goal is to cause a major strife.

75 UN Observers Moved

NC201916 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1815 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Seventy-five international observers have been pulled out of their positions along the borders and moved to headquarters in Al-Naqurah, 3 days after their lieutenant colonel was kidnapped. Meanwhile, UNRWA took no measures today, 2 weeks after two of its employees were kidnapped. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Supports Abduction

NC202023 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Hizballah today declared its support for the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, which has claimed responsibility for the abduction of U.S. officer William Richard Higgins. Hizballah described this organization's motives as legitimate because the U.S. officer works for U.S. intelligence.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, a Hizballah member and the imam of the town of Jibshit, stated that Higgins is no longer in the south. He also questioned what has prompted the Amal Movement to work for the release of an American spy who took part in the Vietnam massacres, as he put it.

UNRWA To Reduce Services

NC202158 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] UNRWA decided today to reduce its services to the Palestinians in Lebanon to the minimum because its employees, Stening and Jorgensen, are still being held. An agency spokesman expressed his optimism regarding the release of the two employees because there are no obstacles in the negotiations taking place in this regard. He explained that the agency has also decided to suspend reconstruction programs it had intended to carry out in the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps because they require the supervision of UN officials. The agency noted the existence of danger for all the employees.

UNIFIL Spokesman Interviewed

NC210958 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with official UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel by Voice of Lebanon correspondent Majdah Tajir; date not given—live or recorded, in English]

[Text] [Tajir] We would like to ask you a few questions about the search going on for the American officer abducted. Can you tell us, Amal is continuing its search in the region of Tyre, isn't it?

[Goksel] You have to ask Amal that, I do not know.

[Tajir] You don't know. Are there any clues about the whereabouts of Lt Col Higgins?

[Goksel] Well, we are getting a lot of information from everybody. We are checking out most of them because some of them are not very reliable. But whenever we get information that we think is accurate, we are following it up. And that is why yesterday there was a search operation, and the normal security measures will continue as well as the searches, depending on the information available, of course.

[Tajir] And your checkpoints are still where they are, you know...

[Goksel, interrupting] Of course, of course, more than before, yes.

[Tajir] Is it true about the 75 UN observers withdrawn to Al-Naqurah?

[Goksel] Not to Al-Naqurah, not 75. Look, we have 75 all over Lebanon, most of them are along the borders with Israel anyway. But 20 of them operate in the UNIFIL area. What has been done is those 20 have been pulled in Al-Naqurah and to their positions along the border.

[Tajir] I see, sir.

[Goksel] Yes, but there is no question of withdrawing from Lebanon.

[Tajir] There is a report about Israel proposing to help in the search...

[Goksel] It has nothing to do with that; we have no contact with Israel on this subject.

[Tajir] Not at all?

[Goksel] Not at all. We are working in Lebanon.

[Tajir] I see, sir. Have you got any comment to make on the, I mean, the situation now; is there any hope for his release very soon?

[Goksel] As long as we are here we have to be hopeful.

[Tajir] Can you tell us exactly the points where the UN observers were, the towns?

[Goksel] Well, look, for a long time they had permanent positions for example in Chateau Beaufort, they have in Al-Khiyam, they have near Markaba, they have near Marun Al-Ra's, from Marwahin. I mean there are six positions all over south Lebanon, but most along the border.

[Tahir] I see, sir. Thank you very much, sir.

[Goksel] You're quite welcome.

Search Continues, Birri Cited

NC211256 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has continued its security measures in Tyre and stormed some areas in search for the abducted lieutenant colonel. Amal Movement leader Minister Birri has strongly criticized those who support the kidnapping of the officer because he is American. According to Birri, nationality is not the point, because the abduction is an act of aggression against the UN force.

Qabalan Calls for Release

NC211537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has warned against strife in the south. He called for efforts to prevent such strife, before it is too late, and for the release of the kidnapped American officer.

Speaking at a memorial service held by the Amal Movement in the Al-Husayni Club in Al-Karamah before noon today, on the anniversary of the martyrdom of 'Ali Mushayk and Husayn Hamdar, his eminence said: It might be said that this American is an agent, but he entered our homes. God tells us to protect the polytheist if he comes to us. The Amal Movement regards the kidnapping of this person as defiance, because he was visiting an Amal Movement official. He was kidnapped while he was leaving the meeting. The Movement is now facing two choices: Either it abandons security and lets the situation return to what it was before 1982—it does not want to do this and neither do I—or it will have to maintain security.

Regarding the reports about the return of His Eminence Imam Musa al-Sadr, he said: What Ayatollah Rohani has said deserves our attention. We must treat it as true until disproven.

UNRWA Reduces Personnel

NC211830 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] UNRWA announced from its headquarters in Vienna today that its employees in Lebanon have been reduced from 14 to 5 for security reasons.

In a statement, UNRWA said the remaining UN officials in Lebanon will be charged with the task of leading the search for their two abducted UNRWA colleagues.

Amal-Hizballah Clash Reported

NC212110 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Tension is continuing in 'Ayn al-Tinah in western Al-Biqa' following clashes between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. The fighting broke out after Hizballah detained Amal Movement members manning a roadblock on the approach road to the town. An Amal group also raided the house of Hizballah official Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi on the pretext of searching for the kidnapped American Richard Higgins.

Kidnappers Say Search 'Futile'

NC220658 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The organization calling itself the Oppressed on Earth, which has claimed responsibility for the abduction of Higgins, has said in a statement that the ongoing campaign to locate him will be futile, even if supported by Israeli forces. The organization added that the presence of international troops in the south does not concern it and that such a presence is useless.

The organization's statement advises Minister Nabih Birri to stop giving military commands, provoking people, and storming their homes, because the banner of defending UNIFIL cannot serve to justify his enthusiasm for saving an agent of great responsibility in the U.S. Pentagon.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Mun'im Muhanna, a Hizballah official, has ruled out the possibility of a confrontation between Amal and Hizballah, saying: We regret seeing Amal conducting searches and storming places to locate an American spy. He added that if the Amal Movement is concerned about the release of Higgins, this could be possible after the kidnappers' demands have been met.

In Ba'labakk, meanwhile, the Islamic Amal Movement has issued a statement denouncing the Amal Movement's storming and arrest operations in search of Higgins, describing these acts as retaliatory. The statement warned Amal that its operations will not go unpunished should they continue.

The Amal Movement's response came in a statement issued by its southern command, asserting that the U.S. officer's abduction was a suspect act aimed at creating major strife. The movement adds: All those who executed and planned the abduction are known to us and should bear their legitimate and religious responsibility to the south and to the major strife they want to create there. The Amal command sent a new warning to the kidnappers, saying it will not allow anyone to exceed the red lines and that it knows how to respond.

Da'ud Da'ud, the Amal Movement's Executive Committee chairman, disclosed that its detainees are former Amal Movement members who had joined Hizballah. He added that their confessions revealed the identities of Higgins' abductors.

Previous Deals Noted

NC220731 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0625 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Amal Movement in Tyre has issued a strongly-worded warning to the kidnappers of U.S. Lt Col William Higgins. The Movement's leadership stressed that it will not allow anyone to transgress the red lines and that it knows how to respond if anyone does. The statement added: Those who masterminded and carried out the abduction, and who we know very well, must assume their responsibilities.

An Amal official stressed that the search operation will continue in secret because Amal has leads on the case. The Amal leadership said that previous kidnappings of foreigners in Beirut carried out under the pretext of combatting espionage ended in financial deals, in which enormous amounts of money were cashed and distributed and tempting bargains were made. One million dollars was paid for a South Korean, $2 million was paid for a German, and God knows how much will be paid for an American.

The official added: We are searching for Lt Col Higgins, not because he is American, but in order to prevent kidnappings from spreading from West Beirut to south Lebanon since foreigners have evacuated Beirut.

Kidnappers Release Video

NC220839 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Kidnappers of U.S. Lt Col William Higgins released a 70-second videotape today in which Higgins appeals to Washington and Israel to meet the demands for his release. Higgins says in the tape, which was sent to a foreign news agency: If I am to be freed, the demands of the kidnappers must be met. He cited the following demands: withdrawal of Israeli forces from all territory under their occupation in southern Lebanon; release of all Lebanese and Palestinian mujahidin from Al-Khiyam Prison in southern Lebanon and from all other prisons inside the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine; and a halt to U.S. intervention in Lebanon and sending of delegations to the Middle East to circumvent the gains of the Islamic revolution in Palestine.

Higgins 'Stern and Unshaven'

NC221005 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Higgins, who was wearing a green jacket, looked stern and unshaven while reading the demands from a written statement in front of him. Higgins said: Reagan must bear responsibility for the crimes he has committed against the oppressed peoples in the region.

The kidnappers, who call themselves the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, attached to the videotape a typewritten copy of the statement in Arabic and distributed it last night. The group accuses Higgins of being a spy and urges the Amal Movement to stop its efforts to free him because of the dangerous role he plays.

The demands announced by the kidnapped colonel in the video are the same ones noted by the organization in its first statement, issued on Friday.

Bomb Explodes at Ivorian Envoy's Residence

AB211007 Paris AFP in French 0920 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, 21 Feb (AFP)—A bomb exploded this morning, without causing any casualties, in front of the residence of the Ivorian ambassador to Lebanon, Armel Koudou Aziegbo, the Lebanese police announced. The device, which had been placed in front of the door to the residence, exploded at 0245 local time (0045 GMT) causing material damage, the police source added.

The Ivorian ambassador's residence is located northeast of Beirut, in the Metn, a sector under the control of the Army and militia of the Phalangist Party (Kataeb), which is close to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. It had already been the target of a grenade attack on 9 February. Last Wednesday [17 February], an explosive device was discovered before it could go off, it was learned at the Ivorian Chancellery.

Embassy To Close

NC221218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this morning chaired a meeting attended by the Ivory Coast ambassador; Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general; Military Public Prosecutor Fawzi Daghir; and Gendermerie Commander Brigadier General Antoine Nasr. The discussion dealt with attacks on the African community.

In a statement following the meeting, the Ivorian ambassador said: I met with the president of the Republic to discuss some of the regrettable events of the last week. As you know, I was personally the target of a bomb attack on 9 February, and yesterday similar regrettable events occurred. His excellency the president honored me with the meeting today to discuss the situation and the consequences of these events, considering the gravity of the attacks for some Africans. We also discussed bilateral relations.

In the wake of these regrettable events, the ambassador added, my country has decided to close its embassy in Beirut. This is not tantamount to severing diplomatic relations, since the Lebanese Embassy in the Ivory Coast is still operating normally. These measures follow continuing attacks against us. The president of the Republic has promised to take the necessary measures as soon as possible to settle the matter, he concluded.

FRG Stops Granting Entry Visas in Juniyah

NC210703 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The abduction of foreigners is having adverse effects on Lebanese nationals. The FRG Embassy has said it will no longer grant entry visas in Juniyah and that those seeking visas must submit their applications to the German Embassy in Damascus, Amman, or Nicosia.

Al-Jumayyil Investigating Imam al-Sadr Issue

NC191625 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil devoted special attention to reports that were circulated recently on the possibility of the reappearance of the president of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, Imam Musa al-Sadr, in light of declarations made by the Shi'ite community official in Europe, Ayatollah Mahdi Rohani. After his return to Beirut, President al-Jumayyil held a series of contacts to clarify the whereabouts [as heard] of this issue. For this purpose, he summoned the Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk and asked him to intensify contacts [words indistinct] and asked the Lebanese Embassy in Paris to contact Ayatollah Rohani in order to be briefed on the source of this information.

President al-Jumayyil stressed the need to intensify contacts and to gather information on this case, in view of the senior position which Imam al-Sadr had in Lebanon and in the world, and in view of the important role he played in unifying the Lebanese ranks during the critical period of Lebanon's modern history. Sources close to the Foreign Ministry said that Ambassador al-Turk sent cables to the concerned Lebanese embassies abroad, asking them for information on the issue of Imam al-Sadr.

Israeli Forces Reportedly Withdraw From South

NC201052 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0950 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] According to security information, the Israeli army began to withdraw from the Hasbayya area yesterday evening. The withdrawal includes the area extending between Tallat Zaghlah and Marj 'Uyun. The Israeli army has not yet commented on this information.

Finnish Defense Minister Meets 'Usayran, 'Awn

NC201248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Finnish Defense Minister Ole Norrback arrived in Lebanon from Syria today. He visited Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran at noon, after which he called on Army Commander Michel 'Awn. Norrback will later go to Al-Naqurah to inspect the Finnish contingent there.

After his meeting with the Finnish minister, 'Usayran said that the guest minister wanted to learn the Lebanese point of view regarding the UN team operaring in Lebanon as well as UNIFIL.

Visits UNIFIL Contingent

NC220827 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Finnish Defense Minister Ole Norrback has stressed that his country's UNIFIL contingent will remain in the south until the objectives for which the international force has come are achieved. The Finnish minister praised the role played by the Amal Movement and its leaders and their cooperation in solving several problems, thus serving the southerners' interests.

The Finnish defense minister yesterday inspected the headquarters of his country's contingent in Burj Qallawiyah, in the Bint Jubayl District, where he was accorded a public and military reception. He later met with a number of Amal officials in the presence of the contingent's commander and visited some of the Finnish posts.

Al-Asad To Make 'Special' Visit to USSR in March

JN210907 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Feb (WAKH)—Press reports in Abu Dhabi today mention that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad intends to visit the USSR in the first half of March. In a news dispatch from Beirut citing a source which is close to Damascus, AL-ITTIHAD says that a ranking USSR envoy arrived in Damascus early this week to prepare for this visit, described as being of special importance in light of the current developments in the region.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Gorbachev

JN191638 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a message today from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary, on the latest developments regarding the Afghan issue.

An official Syrian source has stated that Syria welcomes the efforts being exerted by the United Nations secretary general's envoy to resolve the Afghan conflict and expresses its wishes for the success of the Geneva negotiations, which seek to resolve the Afghan issue in a manner that serves the higher interests of the Afghan people as well as regional stability.

Al-Asad, PNSF Group Discusses Popular Uprising

JN210806 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] At 1700 yesterday His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a PNSF delegation comprising Khalid al-Fahum, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, 'Isam al-Qadi, Ahmad Jibril, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Muhammad Khalifah, Talal Naji, and Abu Khalid al-'Amlah. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The discussion dealt with the situation in the Palestinian arena in light of the popular uprising against Israeli occupation in the occupied Arab territories and its regional and international consequences. Those attending the meeting stressed the importance of bolstering steadfastness in the occupied territories and giving every possible assistance to the uprising.

His excellency the president reaffirmed Syria's support for the uprising, and Syria's commitment to the Palestinian Arab people's national rights and to the objective of the liberation of the occupied Arab territories. President al- Asad also stressed that Syria rejects separate and partial solutions.

Shultz Initiative 'Misleading', 'Failure'

JN201049 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Feb 88

[From the press review]]

[Text] Under the headline: "Shultz Puts a a Headline on His Tour," AL-THAWRAH says: At a time when the U.S. Administration is trying to mislead the world by saying that it intends to present a new initiative to solve the conflict in the region through what it calls calm diplomacy, when contacts and consultations among the Camp David parties to discuss the new U.S. proposals are being intensified, and when Zionist media are pumping out further lies on disagreements in Israel's partnership government over the U.S. proposals and the international conference, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has dusted off a fact that some parties tried to hide or ignore for a while. A few days before his expected tour in the region, he affirmed that U.S.-Israeli relations are firm and strong, explaining to U.S. senators that it was not possible to seperate the Zionist entity and the United States. This, he said, is a fact that the Arab countries should take for granted. Second, Shultz deserves thanks as he gave a headline to his forthcoming visit to the region and deliberately revealed the nature of Israeli-U.S. relations, which have reached the level of a strategic alliance. He aimed at assuring Tel Aviv friends in congress of the firmness of the U.S. stand, which backs the racist Zionist entity and supports its aggressive expansionist policy. Thus, he removed the illusions of those who believed in the possibility of exerting U.S. pressure on Israel to drive it to stop the intransigence that the enemy leaders show in their rejection of the international conference, which, in fact, is an absolute U.S. rejection before it is an Israei rejection.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that Washington also announces it will maintain the amount of its financial aid to the Zionist entity, which is $3 billion, and that John Whitehead, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, points out that maintaining the level of U.S. budget cuts and reductions in foreign aid is due to the fact that the two parties signed the Camp David accords.

These facts, coming at this very time, expose the essence of the U.S. ideas and the initiative which Shultz gave himself the burden of marketing after he has, over the past 4 years, lived with the shock of the fall of the 17 May agreement, which he himself had masterminded and long cried for.

The lessons of Camp David and the 17 May agreement are still conspicuous. The United States is the first to recognize these lessons. Why, then, does it ignore them? And why does it insist on presenting similar ideas, which time has passed and events proved failures in achieving a just, lasting, and comprehesive solution in the region? The answer is in the U.S. insistence on its Israeli policy in the region and its attempt to win time and confront the uprising of our kinfolk in the occupied homeland, after the attempts to contain it or use it to push forward the Camp David process have proved to be a failure.

Commentary Questions Shultz' Statements, Tour

JN201519 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has talked a great deal about the Middle East, its crisis, and his country's policy in the region before leaving for Moscow to prepare for a new U.S.-USSR summit conference there, and also before his scheduled tour of the Middle East, over which the organs of psychological warfare and propaganda in Washington are making an uproar. No one can dictate to the U.S. secretary of state what to do and what to say about this or that issue, how to deal with this or that issue, or how to deal with other countries, such as the Soviet Union.

When the state of affairs affects other countries' interests and deals with issues of peace and war, the others have the right to analyze Shultz' statements in order to understand the positive or negative assessment of the policy being promoted by the U.S. secretary of state. Let us take some examples of his statements. Shultz said he would see if the Soviet Union could or would make a constructive contribution to the Middle East peace process. This is a strange and a daring statement. Who established the United States as a trusteeship of the Middle East and its cause and gave the U.S. secretary of state the right to decide who should or should not participate in solving the region's crisis?

The only distinguished U.S. role in the region is its complete bias toward Israel and its aggression and crimes. It is also completely responsible for Israel's actions, positions, and its challenge to the international community, because it continues its huge military, financial, and political support for Israel. This distinguished U.S. role in the region does not constitute a positive contribution to the peace process or to the implementation of the UN resolutions to establish a just peace in the region. Any step by the international community to prevent the United States from supporting Israel's wars, regional expansion, and terrorism in the Middle East will constitute a great and positive contribution to efforts to bring about a just peace. The United States has no right to decide who should participate in the peace process. Only the international community has the right to place reservations on U.S. participation in the peace process because such participation has prevented the international community from taking or implementing resolutions that can serve a just peace in the region.

Soviet interest in the region is justified and even required. The region is located near the Soviet border and can affect its security. The Soviet Union is also a superpower and a permanent Security Council member state; it also supports the establishment of a just peace, the need to respect the principles of the UN Charter, and nations' rights. Its contribution to the peace process and the international conference will be positive and useful.

We can take another example from Shultz' statements. Following intensive efforts by his administration to draw Jordan and other Arab sides into direct negotiations with Israel, Shultz said he is looking forward to an exchange of land for peace. This is not new for Shultz and his administration. Shultz ignores the fact that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and many other Israeli rulers refuse to abandon the territories they have occupied through aggression, force, and U.S. support. The United States, as Shultz and others say, does not want to force Israel to accept what it does not want. The United States has placed U.S. Middle East policy in the hands of the Israeli rulers. So what will Shultz do? What is the use of talk about policy?

Israel has prevented the establishment of peace in the region. Its expansionist and aggressive policy also feeds tension in the region and creates appropriate circumstances for explosions. Brutal and illegal Israeli actions resemble or even surpass Nazi actions, as the Norwegian ambassador put it. How can Shultz convince Israel to abandon this policy which he supported several days ago by using a veto at the Security Council?

Brilliant slogans and adherence to plans that led to the deterioration of the situation in the region cannot constitute a Noah's ark for Israel and the United States. Those who want a solution to the Middle East crisis should first seek an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the achievement of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights through an international peace conference. If Shultz wants a just peace, the door is well known and he can enter it peacefully.

Iraqi Role in Pan-Arabism, Pipeline Denounced

JN211325 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 21 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Trojan Horse of This Age" TISHRIN says: Those who review the Iraqi regime's relations with the Arab nation easily realize that this regime was brought to power to perform a role that diametrically conflicts with pan-Arab interests and that serves imperialist-Zionist interests. This role has been completely exposed since the first moment the Iraqi regime launched its mad war against Iran. This war has been the most serious stage of the Iraqi regime's role of undermining all the bases governing the conflict in the region.

However, what is more important and more serious is that the clamor of the war and its destructive consequences had been intended to completely obscure the priorities of the conflict in the region. The war is intended to overshadow and retrograde the basic conflict. Perhaps, we still remember how the United States and Israel used to fabricate excuses and justifications to depict matters as though the Gulf conflict is the primary conflict and that it is the most volatile. This has made Israel boast worldwide that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the most important conflict in the region and that there are other more important hotbeds of tension in the Middle East, meaning the Arab-Persian conflict. This is the same theory that Saddam Husayn has been repeating. Israel and Saddam's regime have adopted the same serious theory to relegate the Arab-Israeli conflict to second place. The attempt to relegate the conflict to second place got a positive response from Saddam because he mistakenly believed that he could draw Arab and international attention to his quixotic war.

The Zionists used to welcome this with enthusiasm and happiness, as it substantiates their flimsy claims.

However, Syria stood fast under President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of Arab struggle. President al-Asad also rejected all postulates that were disseminated to give precedence to Saddam's war, and Syria contained their repercussions and explained their danger. Had it not been for all this, the feverish campaign would have succeeded in changing all the bases of the conflict, reversing the facts, and undermining Arab efforts, which are exerted to confront the primary and only enemy in the region, the United States and Israel.

Last but not least came the scandal of the oil pipeline that was exposed by the U.S. press, including the secret contacts and the current negotiations through official and nonofficial U.S. brokers to peddle this deal with the installation of an Iraqi oil pipeline to Haifa in the occupied territories. This, in addition to toeing the Camp David line, is a new threat to the nation and to its struggle against Israel.

Thus, the long-term objectives of this war become more and more exposed. This war was planned by the United States and the Iraqi regime was tasked to wage it on its behalf. No matter how much the Iraqi regime tries to impose a news blackout on this scandal, its contents and significance cannot be concealed by any information clamor this regime may create to conceal it. This scandal is the second face of the war and it is also one of its natural results. It is the Trojan horse of this age, and the Trojan horse in the Gulf. Some time may still be needed to release other horses within the framework of the pro-U.S. role the Iraqi regime plays in the region, and the schemes it is carrying out in the interest of the nation's enemies.

Can the United States and Israel do to our nation and the Gulf more than what the Saddam regime has already accomplished for them?

Afghanistan

BIA Comments on Pakistani Stand, Geneva Talks

LD212323 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] A BIA political commentator writes:

The statements Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, made on 8 February in connection with a rapid political solution to Afghanistan's internal and external situation, gave a powerful boost to the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan and produced the most suitable conditions for the successful conclusion of negotiations.

During the almost 6 years of negotiations in Geneva, the constituent documents regarding a political settlement to the Afghan situation—noninterference, international guarantees on the cessation of interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and their nonrecurrence in the future, the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan, and reciprocal links between various elements of the political solution—and the mechanism to control and to implement the agreements have almost been completed and finalized.

The only matter which had been left unsolved until recently, was agreement over the timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. Here the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR also found a sound solution acceptable to all. Their historic statements categorically stated that the two countries have agreed that the return of the Soviet forces will begin on 15 May of the current year and will be completed within a period of 10 months. A large part of the forces would be withdrawn in the first phase, provided the Geneva agreements are signed on 15 March.

It has also been stated that the timetable for the Soviet forces' withdrawal has no link whatever with completing the creation of a coalition government in Afghanistan. The Afghan and Soviet leaders' statements on the creation of a coalition are also categorical: The Republic of Afghanistan is prepared to form a coalition government with the active participation of opposition groups and personalities, including the armed opposition groups.

The Afghan and Soviet leaders' statements were widely disseminated throughout the world and were welcomed not only by the Afghan people and Afghan refugees, but also by peace-loving world states circles. The Pakistani, Iranian, and U.S. authorities and Diego Cordovez, the United Nations special envoy, also welcomed these statements and called them positive and constructive. Even before the issuance of the statements, Diego Cordovez, on his arrival in Kabul on 23 January, told reporters that the Pakistani authorities had not put forward any new issue and were pledged to the Geneva agreements. It was for this reason that, after ending his mission to the region on 2 February, he told a press conference that both Afghanistan and Pakistan had agreed to hold the next round of negotiations on 2 March in Geneva. Thus, as a result of the sound, realistic, and constructive position of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, all the necessary conditions were created for the next round of talks in Geneva to be the final round, and for them to result in the concluding of agreements.

After all these conditions and realistic opportunities for a rapid solution to the Afghan situation had been provided, the Pakistani state, in a stubborn effort in order to avoid signing the documents prepared in Geneva, began to maneuver evasively. To achieve this, the Pakistani authorities resorted to various pretexts. Once they spoke of their unpreparedness to sign the Geneva agreements with the Republic of Afghanistan. Again they stated that they will sign the Geneva agreements with a legal government. And finally, Zain Noorani, Pakistani foreign minister, in a press conference on 14 February in Islamabad said that the government of that country will sign the Geneva agreements after an interim government is formed in Afghanistan.

Concerning this baseless rhetoric, it should be said that Zain Noorani should, as a first step, prove the legality of the present regime ruling his own country. It is clear not only to us but to everyone, that all the opposition parties and the great majority of the Pakistani people are profoundly dissatisfied with the politicoeconomic situation and the present Pakistani regime's stand on civil rights. For a regime which came to power as a result of a coup d'etat in July 1977, it does not appear to be sound or convincing that such a regime's officials should question the legality of other states.

Second, to link the signing of the Geneva agreements with the formation of a coalition government in Afghanistan is the most categorical form of interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, totally contradicting the most basic standards of international law and the international declaration of human rights. The formation and type of coalition government in Afghanistan is a purely domestic matter which only the people of Afghanistan can and should decide. The Pakistani authorities want to broaden their interference in the internal affairs of our independent and sovereign country to the extent that they want to form the future government of Afghanistan in Islamabad or Peshawar, then export it to our country and then sign the Geneva agreements with their own installed government. No true and patriotic Afghan will allow such an unacceptable situation to occur.

Third, the question of forming a coalition government in Afghanistan is not included in all the questions discussed in the talks in Geneva and could not be included primarily because from the very beginning the talks in Geneva have been concerned with solving the external aspects of the Afghan question. If the external aspects are solved through signing the Geneva agreements, then solving Afghanistan's internal problems, including the formation of a coalition government by the Afghans themselves, will become considerably easier.

Sometimes Pakistan makes it sound as if there will be further bloodshed between Afghans if a coalition government is not formed prior to the signing of the Geneva accords. If we look closely at these claims, we find that elements of hypocrisy are hidden in them. On the one side the Pakistani authorities want to play the role of a foster mother—kinder than the mother!—and so demonstrate that they do not want further bloodshed to occur among Afghans. However, who does not know that the Islamabad regime is solely responsible for all this bloodshed, destruction, and suffering among our people? Is it not the ruling circles of Pakistan who, for almost 10 years, have used their country as a springboard for aggression and as a center for various types of interference, including armed interference in the Republic of Afghanistan?

Because of this behavior, they cannot be exonerated from their responsibility for the war's consequences and their interference in our country. And on the other hand, with such statements the Pakistani authorities in fact implicitly encourage the Afghan extremist groups to be ready for further bloodshed and the continuation of the fratricidal war.

A sound mind demands that the Pakistani authorities think deeply about their stand. Since all routes to a rapid political solution to the Afghan situation have been opened up and the Geneva documents are practically ready to be signed, it depends on the Pakistani side as to whether, with the signing of these documents, they play a constructive role in successfully concluding the Geneva process, or whether, using groundless arguments and pretexts, they hinder the Geneva process. If Pakistan continues its recent obstructive policy, then this will result in the following consequences:

The abortion of the good efforts of the UN secretary general and the mission of his special envoy, Diego Cordovez;

The frustration of 6 years of negotiations and the disruption of all efforts to draft the Geneva documents;

The continuation of interference, including armed interference, against our country and consequently the continuation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan;

The prevention of the return of the refugees to the homeland, and so trampling on the natural rights of the Afghan refugees to return to their country;

The creation of obstacles and the delay of the return of the Soviet limited contingents to their country; and

The inflammation of the tense regional situation, thus increasing international tension.

In this case the responsibility for all consequences will rest with the Pakistani regime and its backers. However, we hope that Pakistan, cooperating with its partner in negotiations, will not allow the development of such grave consequences. We believe that wise and far-sighted people exist among that country's leaders who support their national interests and the interests of regional peace and security. They pay no attention to the selfish demands of a handful of elements and extremist groups who want to trample on the interests of the Afghan people as well as the interests of the Pakistani people.

Soviet Army Founding Day Anniversary Marked

Najibullah Attends Ceremony

LD211820 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, participated this afternoon in a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army and Navy, which was held at the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, Esteemed Najibullah arrived around 1400 at the Ministry of Defense. He was welcomed on his arrival at the headquarters of the Defense Ministry by Major General Muhammad Rafi', defense minister, and the leadership of that ministry. Esteemed Najibullah inspected the honor guard.

The BIA military correspondent adds that Esteemed Najibullah took part in the dedication ceremony for the Afghan-Soviet friendship memorial column. After a speech by Brigadier General Zabihullah Zairmal, head of Army political affairs, the memorial column of Afghan-Soviet friendship was opened officially. The correspondent adds that Esteemed Najibullah, accompanied by Nazar Muhammad, first deputy prime minister; Major General Muhammad Rafi', minister of defense; Lieutenant General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy; Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, state security minister; and high-ranking generals and officers of the armed forces, laid a wreath at the memorial column of Afghan-Soviet friendship and paid his respects. Then the honor guard passed by the memorial column of Afghan-Soviet friendship to show its respect.

In a short speech, Maj Gen Muhammad Rafi' mentioned the solid Afghan-Soviet friendship, which has successfully passed the test of time. He recalled with appreciation Soviet Army cooperation in fullfilling their internationalist duties and the combat fraternity between the two countries armies.

Then, the head of the political section of the limited Soviet contingents spoke in connection with the opening of the Afghan-Soviet memorial column about the combat fraternity between the two armies.

The report adds that the enternal flame, which manifests the heroism and struggle of the soldiers and personnel of the limited Soviet contingents while fulfilling their international tasks in the Republic of Afghanistan, was lit by Colonel Muhammad Barat, pilot and hero of the Republic of Afghanistan, and by a number of personnel of the Soviet limited contingents.

Then Esteemed Najibullah and his entourage took part in a glorious meeting, which was held on this occasion in the conference hall of the Defense Ministry. On his arrival at the hall the audience stood up and welcomed him with enthusiasm and continuous applause. At the end of the ceremony a documentary film about the Soviet Army and Navy, which is the manifestation of the struggle to defend the Great October Socialist Revolution and the great homeland war, was shown.

During this ceremony, Maj Gen Muhammad Rafi' delivered a speech about the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy and conveyed his warmest congratulations of behalf of the personnel of the Republic of Afghanistan Army to the personnel of the limited Soviet contingents. An officer of the Soviet limited contingents in Afghanistan then spoke in connection with the subject.

Najibullah Delivers Speech

LD212037 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Speech by President Najibullah to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy at a 21 February meeting at the Defense Ministry in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] [Applause] Dear combatant friends, honorable internationalist militarists. Some time ago progressive mankind celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. During these days we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. It is not necessary to be a politician to see the close ties between these two important events. World history has proved several times that a revolution has value only when it is capable of defending itself. Always and everywhere, when a socialist country has been faced with danger, the popular red army has defended the gains of that October. When the dark forces of fascism acted against the Soviet country, the heroic Red Army, Red Air Force and Navy crushed the spinal column of Hitlerism, which was supported by the imperialist forces. The more we keep a distance between war, between life and death, and between brightness and darkness, the more the success of the Soviet Union—which enjoys historical international importance—can be seen.

The 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Union's heroic Army is the festival of the soldiers and patriots who made their chests a shield against the enemies' bullets for the sake of the Lenin homeland and the birthplace of October.

This reminds me of the great memorial in Volgograd—thousands and thousands of eternal flames and the motherland, which turned the swords into plowshares. I remember the roads and houses in Volgograd. We saw these when we visited the Soviet Union to participate in the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. We not only visited them to pay our respects to the memory of those heroes, but we also derived a lesson from them for our own struggle.

We have emerged from these musuems and memorials stronger, more powerful, and firmer, and have brought with us the great experience of success. I remember all this when I look at the eternal flame that was lit by the soldiers just now, in honor of the internationalist soldiers. Eight years ago, during a difficult time for the people of Afghanistan, the Soviet Union extended the helping hands of fraternity. Only a true friend and loyal neighbor can do this. All the things that are being carried out by the limited Soviet contingents who are standing with us in one front form an epic that will never be forgotten by the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan, who have formed a history of several hundred years of struggle for their freedom and independence.

The limited Soviet contingents have helped us to create our armed forces and have passed to us their military, political, and tactical experience. During these years a combat fraternity and a blood fraternity has been formed between us. The limited Soviet contingents were engaged in the greatest works for the creation of peace. I speak not only of the joint voluntary work but also of the construction of roads and bridges that has been carried out by the militarists. I speak also of their great medical assistance.

We are confident that your heroic work will be recorded on a bright page in the history of the Soviet Army and in the history of Afghan-Soviet relations. Thank you all, dear comrades. [applause]

I express my best feeling of thanks to you for carrying out with self-sacrifice the internationalist duty to consolidate the combat spirit and morale of the Republic of Afghanistan's Army. [applause]

Comrades, the Soviet festivals have a public purpose. These festivals are not only an invitation to happy events and glorious meetings, but are also an invitation to think about what has been carried out, what is going on, and what lies before us. We follow this course with deep interest and attention. The Soviet people, under the leadership of the CPSU, are implementing a revolutionary program based on renovation to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development. We are filled with pride to see that the Soviet Union, with consistency and optimism on the diplomatic front, is struggling for nuclear disarmament on the planet earth.

We will always be thankful to the Soviet people and the party of Lenin for their efforts for the political normalization of military conflicts in Afghanistan. Our people regard M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee's, statement on Afghanistan as a peace program and an important political document of wisdom. The people, state, and our armed forces are going through a sensitive stage today. All the true patriots of the country are standing today in a united rank as the combatants who struggle to end the fratricidal war, the combatants of peace in our long-suffering land. We have confidence in the wisdom of civilization, in the national reconciliation policy, in the righteousness and future of our peace policy, in our people, and in our friendship with the great Soviet people. We will struggle in this direction with all our might. [applause]

Dear comrades, allow me to congratulate you on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the heroic forces of the Soviet Union. Being a militarist in the army of a powerful people who open the path to a society based on principles of equality and social justice is a great honor. And you are worthy of this honor.

Let Afghan-Soviet friendship be consolidated and expanded. Long live the heroic Armed Forces of the Soviet Union! [applause]

Meetings Mark Anniversary

LD201752 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Army and Navy was marked today in the hall of the Military University of the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces.

A BAKHTAR military affairs correspondent reported that the meeting which was held by the Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan and by the general section of the Army Political Affairs Department was attended by Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister; Sarwar Mangal, head of the Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity Organization; and a number of personnel of the limited Soviet contingent in Afghanistan.

Brigadier General Zabihullah Ziarmal, head of the Army Political Affairs Department, spoke in detail on the founding the Soviet Army and Navy, the role of their personnel in the defense of their homeland, and the fulfillment of the internationalist duties and combat fraternity by armies of the two countries.

An officer of the limited Soviet military contingent and a student from the Military University of the Afghan Armed Forces also delivered speeches in this connection. The meeting ended with the laying of a wreath at a memorial to the international soldier, a contest of weapon dismantling and reassembling, and a concert.

According to another report similar meetings were held today at the Kabul garrison assault unit and in the region of Qal'ah-ye Wazir, attached to the sixth ward of the executive committee of the assembly of representatives of Kabul City.

Functions Held in Kabul

LD220745 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Kabul, February 21, BAKHTAR—70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy forces was marked here in a function at the Political-Military University of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

A press conference was also held on the occasion at the Soviet House of Science and Culture in Kabul with the participation of a number of the representatives of the mass media of the country.

Talking about the heroic history of the Soviet Army, the military attache of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul said that February 23, coincides with 70th anniversary of foundation of the Soviet Army which has traversed a long way of hard struggle for safeguarding independence and territorial integrity of the Soviet Union.

He responded to the questions raised by journalists on the structure of the Soviet Army, the necessity for establishing the Soviet Army after the October Revolution and their contribution in strengthening the world peace.

Mujahidin Kill 30 in Herat Bomb Blast 15 Feb

BK191642 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 19 (AFP)—Thirty people were killed and some 100 wounded when a bomb ripped through a cinema in the western Afghanistan city of Herat on Monday, the pro-resistance Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported Friday. AIP said that anti-communist Afghan guerrillas had planted the bomb in the cinema where a Soviet film was being screened.

The film show had been arranged for the Afghan Army and civilians, AIP said, adding that most of the casualties were among Afghan officers. The agency said that Soviet and Afghan troops launched a manhunt in Herat the day after the blast and arrested many civilians in the city which borders Iran. Mujahidin retaliated by attacking government posts and official vehicles, AIP said. Two militia officers were killed when rebels lobbed a hand grenade at their jeep Tuesday, it said.

The agency said fighting had intensified after the bombing and that Muslim guerrillas have captured nine posts in and around Herat during the past four days. The mujahidin have also taken control of Katah Qal'eh post near the Iranian border checkpoint of Eslam Qal'eh, it said. Thirteen soldiers manning the post at Katah Qal'eh were seized after their officer was killed in the rebel raid, AIP said.

Bangladesh

Bombs Injure 20 at Bengali Language Ceremonies

BK211140 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Feb 21 (AFP)-Bomb blasts injured 20 people, including five policemen, and disrupted midnight ceremonies in Chittagong commemorating martyrs of the Bengali language movement, police and hospital sources said Sunday.

About 15 home-made bombs exploded shortly before midnight Saturday at the southeastern city's language monument as barefoot pilgrims arrived at the site to pay homage to pro-Bengali language advocates killed 1952 in Dhaka, police contacted in Chittagong said.

The blasts left 20 people injured, including five policemen, police and hospital sources said. Ten of the injured were hospitalised with serious injuries. Police in Bangladesh's second largest city, said no one had claimed responsibility for the blasts but added that they had arrested five suspects at the monument. No more details were available.

In Dhaka the commemorative ceremonies began at a minute after midnight and passed off peacefully for the first time in years, eye-witnesses said.

No incidents were reported from the Shahid Minar Language Monument set up in memory of four people killed nearby in 1952, when the country was known as East Pakistan, after police opened fire on protestors calling for Bengali to be introduced as the official language. Bangladesh was created after a war of indepedence against Pakistan in 1971.

Witnesses said that President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and other top government officials failed to turn out at the monument to lay wreaths at midnight and had not been seen there by midday. [passage omitted]

Opposition Move To Form Alliance Fails

BK210313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, the efforts by opposition groups to form a united front has failed. The chief of the Awami League and the leader of the eight-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, said such a merger is not possible because of strong ideological rifts. The leader of another major opposition alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia, had given the call for a united opposition front last week. The move to bring the two major opposition alliances under a single banner was made by a group of senior leaders in an effort to strengthen the campaign against the present government.

Ershad Names Zafar Ahmed as Political Adviser

BK201312 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The Bangladesh president has appointed Kazi Zafar Ahmed as his honorary political adviser with the status of a deputy prime minister. An official announcement in Dhaka today said Kazi Zafar Ahmed will not be entitled to any pay allowances or other privileges for the appointment.

India

Gandhi Speaks on Punjab, Other Major Issues

BK211618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government has an open mind about talks to resolve the Punjab problem, but it will deal with extremists with a firm hand. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the Congress-I Parliamentary Party in New Delhi today on the eve of the budget session. About the Punjab issue, he made it clear that the government will fight out extremist elements trying to weaken the country, but at the same time, he said, we are ready to talk to anyone coming forward for negotiation within the constitutional framework and giving up violence. Mr Gandhi asserted that there will be no compromise on the unity and integrity of the country.

Briefing newsmen, the AICC-I general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, said that during the 90-minute speech, Mr Gandhi covered several matters including the problems of farmers, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Center-state relations.

Referring to the complaints about the recently held assembly elections in Tripura, Mr Gandhi said that these complaints are being raised only after the CPI-M lost. Earlier, various political parties and the press who went round the polling stations during the election had not made any complaint. The CPI-M also had said that the Army was not interfering in the process of election.

Stressing the need for a strong Center, Mr Gandhi said even the Sarkaria Commission [on Center-state relations] has underlined that a strong center is a must for the unity and the integrity of the country.

Congratulating the people and the government for successfully tackling the drought during the last 2 years, he pointed that it was the greatest challenge of the century. Mr Gandhi said that we could tackle it because of the Green Revolution for which the foundation had been laid by Indira Gandhi.

About the farmers' problems, the prime minister said the government will do its best to protect their interests, but it will not allow anyone to exploit the farmers for personal gains. He said that directions have been given to different ministries to spend more money on the ongoing projects so that they are completed on time in the interest of the farming community. Mr Gandhi said that the government's thrust will be to eradicate poverty and fully strengthen the defense of the country.

On the Sri Lankan issue, Mr Gandhi referred to the announcement of elections to the provincial council by the Jayewardene government and said one or two questions remained. He hoped that these, too, will be solved in due course.

On Afghanistan, Mr Gandhi said India wants a nonaligned government there. There should be no outside interference in the internal affairs of that country.

While expressing India's desire for friendship with China, he hoped that Beijing will take positive steps.

Referring to Pakistan, the prime minister said the people of both the countries want peace, but unfortunately, Pakistani leaders and government make uncalled for statements which hurt their feelings. He said national security will not be sacrificed while India is willing to extend a hand of cooperation to Pakistan.

Soviet Military Attache on Afghanistan

BK191257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1235 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The military attache of the Soviet Embassy in India, Major General (I.A. Golovanov), has said the time is ripe to find out a just solution to the Afghan problem. Talking to newsmen today, he said the issue is an internal problem of Afghanistan which needs a political solution.

About American aid to Pakistan, Major General (Golovanov) said the two countries have strategical alliances and Pakistan is an important ally of America in Southeast Asia. Replying to a question, he said that the Indo-Soviet cooperation is fruitful and for mutual benefit.

Commentary Views Ziaul Haq's 'Provocations'

BK201127 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Political commentary by S.C. Bhatt: "General Ziaul Haq's Provocations"]

[Text] In the United States, which funds the Pakistani rulers in their military pursuits, the Pakistani president, General Ziaul Haq, is known as a wily politician. There is another side to his personality with which India is more familiar. He talks of a peace offensive in his country's relations with India and then goes on and mounts an attack on Indian positions in the Siachen area up in the mountains in Kashmir. The Indian soldiers gave him a bloody nose, but he tries again. In between, his secret agents instigate the terrorists in neighboring Punjab and armed them to the teeth to disturb the peace of that Indian state.

Pakistan, which threw out practically every Hindu and Sikh from its midst, now tries to champion a so-called Khalistan—an independent Sikh state. Thousands of Sikh temples including some historic ones remain practically locked in Pakistan, but its rule has the audacity to pose as a protector of the Sikhs. But General Ziaul Haq may like to know that at the recent republic parade in New Delhi on 26 January the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, decorated a Sikh junior officer of the Indian Army, Subedar Bana Singh, with the highest battle honor of Param Vir Chakra for his gallant action in Siachen.

But General Ziaul Haq never gives up. He keeps up his friendly posture which, in fact, is a cover for his other not so peaceful activities. Typical of the rulers of Pakistan, who have never allowed their people to live in peace with neighboring India, General Ziaul Haq recently indulged in some highly provocative utterances against this country. He spoke to some Islamic conference members in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, and used the platform to his own ends. He spoke of the people of Kashmir being subjugated by another country. He had some tears to shed for Palestinians, too. Being a clever man he banks on people's memory being short.

To recall briefly the 40-year old record of the Pakistani rulers, they first let loose tribal marauders on Kashmir to plunder, rape, and kill the people for whom Mr Ziaul Haq now speaks so feelingly. The raiders were first resisted by the people of Kashmir. The martydom of Maqbool Sherwani [a Muslim], who was killed by the Pakistani raiders while defending the honor of Kashmir, is permanently etched in the Kashmiri psyche. The leaders of the state then called in the Indian Army and its gallant men have kept the rulers of Pakistan at bay for the past 40 years. Even now, as we saw earlier, they are beating back repeatedly General Ziaul Haq's attacks in Siachen.

As to the wishes of the people of Kashmir being ascertained, let us remind General Ziaul Haq that there have been eight general elections in Kashmir as in the rest of India, about one every 5 years. Has he held any worthwhile election in his own country? The Pakistani people are repeatedly demanding a free and fair elections in Pakistan, but General Ziaul Haq, who overthrew the duly elected government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in July 1977, has denied them that right. General Ziaul Haq got himself elected as president in a poll in which only a small number of people voted and they had no opposition candidate to vote for. General Ziaul Haq, who is still the chief of the Pakistani Army, was the sole candidate in that farcical election.

The Kashmir problem has been solved. The only aspect of it which remains to be solved is the illegal occupation of a part of this Indian state by Pakistan. India has agreed that the dispute should be solved peacefully in terms of the Simla Agreement which Mr Bhutto had signed with the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in June 1972 whereby he secured the release of more than 90,000 prisoners of war from India. General Ziaul Haq has committed himself to abide by the Simla Agreement and should keep his word, but he is now engaged in yet another exercise of eating his words.

All these past years, he said that the Russian troops must leave Afghanistan to pave the way for the return of the Afghans who have migrated to Pakistan. Now that Mr Gorbachev has announced a schedule for the withdrawal of the Soviet Army, General Ziaul Haq wants that there should first be an interim government of his chosen men in Kabul. Virtually, he wants to control Afghanistan. So much for his professed love for Muslims. His real purpose in stalling an Afghan settlement is that he wants the supply of free American aid and military equipment to continue. Typical of the man, he also spoke feelingly of the plight of the Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli army. Israel's patron is the United States, which is Pakistan's patron too. Why does not General Ziaul Haq tell the Americans to ask the Israelis to behave? That will be better proof of his feelings than his fulminations against India.

DPRK Premier Leaves Delhi for Bangalore

BK191521 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The North Korean prime minister, Mr Yi Kun-mo, says his visit to India has been a success. In a statement to the press before his departure from Delhi for Bangalore this evening, he said he is convinced that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened. Referring to his talks with the Indian leaders, the North Korean prime minister said the two sides held the view that friendly relations between the two countries are conducive to safeguarding peace and security in Asia and strengthening the nonaligned movement.

Earlier, Mr Yi Kun-mo was given a ceremonial farewell at the Rashtrapati Bhawan [president's house]. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, his Cabinet colleagues, and other dignitaries were present.

Security Alert in North as Blasts Rock Punjab

BK191210 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 19 (AFP)—Authorities sounded a security alert across north India on Friday fearing Sikh militant attacks after a wave of bombings shook Punjab, officials here said.

Federal intelligence officials said New Delhi's 38,000-strong Police Department was put on full alert and security beefed up at courts. Police officials in the federal territory of Delhi and the states of Haryana and Rajasthan jointly reviewed the Punjab bombings, Delhi police intelligence chief J.P. Singh told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS.

Security alerts were sounded in the Hindu-dominated Rajasthan and Haryana States, and neighbouring Punjab, after Sikhs bombed three courts and a milk shop in the troubled state, killing at least six people and wounding 40, officials said.

Punjab's security agencies have also ordered private vehicles not to leave the state after sundown. Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan authorities have sealed off all highways from Punjab into their areas, officials said.

The federal-ruled Punjab administration has also put the region's 80,000-strong security forces on a full red alert after the bombings, reports from Punjab capital Chandigarh said. The mountainous state of Himachal Pradesh last month had already set up special barricades to try and stop Sikh militants from entering the region.

Delhi Placed on Alert

BK191615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Two persons were shot dead in two separate terrorist incidents in Amritsar District this evening. The police in Amritsar, Jullundur, and Patiala have recovered some unexploded bombs from various places. The district authorities all over Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have cautioned the people not to touch anything suspicious or unclaimed. People have been requested to immediately inform the police if they see any such device.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has condemned the bomb blasts. The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, spoke to the Punjab governor on the phone and conveyed his anguish over the bomb explosions by the terrorists and the sufferings caused to the people. He also spoke to the director general of police, Mr Ribeiro. He has asked the state government to take all possible steps to ensure the security of the people. The situation in Punjab was also reviewed at a meeting of senior officials of the Home Ministry in New Delhi today.

The Delhi police today issued a fresh alert against possible bomb explosions in the capital. A police spokesman said that information has been received that terrorists after lying low for sometime may strike in the city by placing explosive devices in public places. The police has advised the people not to touch any unclaimed objects. These could be boxes, briefcases, bags or toys.

15 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK200322 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Excerpt] In Punjab, 15 persons were killed by terrorists in separate incidents since last night. In Amritsar District, 11 members of a family of Kewal Singh were shot dead in their house in village (Sehansa). The terrorists later set the house on fire. Two persons were killed in village Bhainigilan in the same district. In two other incidents, one person was gunned down in Lairagaga in Sangrur District and another shot dead in village Chandewala near Lalru in Patiala District.

Meanwhile, the death toll in yesterday's bomb explosions has risen to 10, with 3 more persons succumbing to their injuries. Fifty-eight others were injured in the series of blasts in the district courts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, and Patiala.

Police also recovered unexploded bombs from various places in Jullundur, Patiala, and Amritsar. The district authorities all over Punjab have cautioned the people not to touch anything suspicious or unclaimed. [passage omitted]

Violence Continues in Darjeeling Areas

BK201248 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Normal life remains partially affected in the Darjeeling hill areas due to the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] bundh [strike]. Violence also continues. According to police, two GNLF activists were killed and four others injured in two separate incidents in Kurseong this morning. Among the injured were three policemen. Arms, ammunition, and explosive materials were also recovered. Police have arrested 20 more GNLF activists.

GNLF Ambushes Police

BK220322 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] In Darjeeling, GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists ambushed police parties at several places and threw bombs on them. Two senior police officials had a narrow escape. The activists also set on fire eight buildings in their continuing agitation and bundh [strike].

The GNLF leader, Mr Subash Ghising, called on the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. The home minister asked him to take immediate steps to restore peace in the hill areas.

Home Minister, GNLF Head Meet

BK211630 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has asked the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader, Mr Subash Ghising, to take immediate steps to establish peace in the Darjeeling hill areas. Mr Ghising called on the home minister in New Delhi. Mr Buta Singh said this is a prerequisite for picking up the process of negotiations to solve the problems of the Darjeeling hill areas. The home minister advised Mr Ghising to call off the bundh [strike] and cooperate with the district authorities in restoring peace and normalcy in the area. Assuring the home minister of his full cooperation, the GNLF leader said peace and normalcy in the area cannot be restored by his efforts alone. He said that the other side must also give up provocative attacks against GNLF followers and stop the misuse of central forces.

Meanwhile, reports of more violence have come in from three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling District. According to police, two buildings in Kalimpong and at Rangpo were set on fire by the GNLF activists, while in a third incident a house was partially damaged in a powerful bomb explosion. An exchange of fire between the police and the GNLF activists also took place at Bombatti in Kalimpong.

Four GNLF activists were arrested this morning in a police raid on a hideout at (Luthanghapi) valley under Darjeeling Sadar police station. Explosive material and some arms and ammunition were recovered.

Farmers End Agitation in Uttar Pradesh

BK201609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The Bharatiya Kisan [Indian Farmers] Union [BKU] has withdrawn its 24-day old agitation in western Uttar Pradesh. The BKU president, Mr Mahendra Singh Tikait, announced this at a rally of farmers at Meerut this evening. He, however, said their non-cooperation movement will continue. Mr Tikait demanded a judicial inquiry into the Rajatpur incident of Tuesday [16 February] when police opened fire to control a mob.

Iran

Khomeyni Attends Meeting on Majlis Elections

LD211247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Today Imam Khomeyni met with governors general, governors, and inspection delegations from the country's third Majlis elections Supervisory centers; commanders and officers in charge of air, sea, and combat units of the Islamic Revolution Committees; representatives of the imam and commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Committees; and Interior Minister Mohtashemi. During the meeting. the interior minister delivered a report on election-related work.

[Begin Mohtashemi recording] In the name of God. While conveying condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the 10th imam, peace be upon him, to our lofty imam, and our Muslim nation, our brothers present here are filled with love for God. [passage omitted]

The reason for holding the meetings yesterday and today, and the seminars for governors, district governors, and inspection delegations is the elections that are so closely linked with the fate of the Iranian nation and the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran. We have done extensive work in this regard so that a healthy election, hopefully in a proper atmosphere with the best possible approach in security and tranquillity, can be held. In this way the public can elect its candidates and allow the establishment of a third Majlis worthy of the revolution.

We have had meetings with the esteemed members of the Council of Guardians and invited them to take part in meetings and seminars, exchange views, and make suggestions. We have also had meetings with the Supreme Judicial Council, which has a very important responsibility in preventing misconduct—as stipulated in the law. Moreover, we have urged the esteemed members not to allow any persons, groups, or factions to disrupt the tranquil and healthy election atmosphere. They should deal with this issue immediately. We need the attention, blessing, and prayers of the beloved imam in fulfilling this crucial and vital responsibility. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Booby Trap Bomb' Found, Defused in Orumiyeh

LD210915 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, Azarbayjan Bakhtari Prov., Feb. 21, IRNA—A booby trap bomb, the second in the past few days, was discovered and defused here Saturday. It was planted in a shopping bag and exposed at a busy quarter of the city. Counterrevolutionaries and foreign-led agents were said to have been behind both terrorist designs.

Majlis Speaker on Foreign Warships' Pullout

LD201305 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today compared the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Persian Gulf to a high-way bandit escaping from the region. In an address to six battalions of volunteer theologicans prior to their departure for the war fronts, he described the Persian Gulf developments over the past few months as being among 'crucial junctures' of the human's [as received] history.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that at least 100 foreign warships, despatched to the Persian Gulf in a bid to support the war mongering regime of Iraq and panic the Iranian Muslim nation are fleeing the region like fleeing sea pirates.

The speaker said that in spite of the contradictory reasons of U.S. statesmen for the pull-out of their naval fleets from the Persian Gulf, the global arrogance still claims that its Persian Gulf policy has not changed.

Addressing the arrogant powers, the speaker questioned them "if you have not changed your policy with respect to the Persian Gulf why are you withdrawing your warships from the Persian Gulf?" "Have you established security in the region or have you strengthened the shaky positions of regional sheykhs?" he asked.

He said that the "foolish" enemies are now attempting to make good on their past mistakes and contrary to their claims, their military presence in the Persian Gulf has not only exacerbated the situation in the region but has placed regional sheykhs in a more shaky position than ever before.

The Palestinian Muslims' uprising in the occupied Palestine and the current situation in Afghanistan are other results of the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

Elsewhere in his speech, the speaker lauded the Iranian people for their spirit of resistance which he said stems from their strong belief in Islam.

In his address to the theologicans departing for the war fronts Majlis speaker hailed Iranian ulema for their solidarity with people and their leading role in the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Also present at the ceremony were a group of Majlis deputies and visiting vice-chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly of Lebanon Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din.

The speaker also presented wreaths of flowers to fifty disabled theologians who were going to the battlefields.

U.S. Tankers Reflagged With Union Jack

LD191939 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 19 Feb 88

["American Tankers Seeking U.K. Protection in Persian Gulf—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Feb. 19, IRNA—U.S. oil giants Chevron and Mobil have reflagged several of their tankers under British colors to gain the protection of the U.K.'s armilla patrol operating in the southern half of the Persian Gulf, it has been revealed here.

Vessels identified so far include the 412,000-ton "Chevron South America," 268,000-ton "Chevron Edinburgh," 280,000-ton "Mobil Petrel," 254,000-ton "Mobil Falcon" and the 126,000 "Mobil Acme."

According to LLOYD'S LIST shipping gazette Thursday, both American companies have acknowledged that the vessels are specifically involved in Persian Gulf trade and the change was to be able to seek the protection of Britain's 3-warship patrol.

All 5 ships were previously flying Liberian and Bahamian flags of conveninence for economic benefits and have re-registered under the British protectorate of Bermuda, which, like all U.K. dependencies, fly the red ensign of Britain.

The move is seen as particularly ironical following the U.S. reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers to gain America's protection last July and shipping observers question why two of America's largest tanker owners are not reverting to the U.S. flag.

The Ministry of Defence in London feels that it has no need to increase the size of its patrol in view of the increased workload and is confident that it will be able to cope.

A spokesman told IRNA Thursday that there had just been a routine change-over of its patrol last week and there was "no plans to increase the number of warships" above its two on duty and one on stand-by level operating for over a year.

The U.S. move, like that involving Kuwaiti tankers reflagging under the U.K. colors last October, has alarmed British seamen, who feel that the U.K. flag is being abused at the expense of increasing the risk of Britain being dragged into Iraq's war against Iran.

The National Union of Marine, Air and Sea Transport Officers (NUMAST) was particularly angered by the attitude of the British Government and its repeated refusal to assist U.K. seamen working on foreign ships.

"The government is more interested in protecting property than protecting lives and has not shown any will to protect our members," a spokesman said. Over 300 seamen have been killed, including 12 British officers, since Iraq started ship attacks in 1981.

Moqtada'i, Ayatollahi's Pre-Sermon Remarks

*LD191254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Text] In the Friday prayer ceremonies in Tehran today Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Moqtada'i, member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, was the presermon speaker. He referred to the measures taken by international organizations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including Amnesty International's announcement that torture is practiced in Iran's prisons. He said: In Iran's prisons, the situation is fully Islamic. Many prisoners have been released after repenting and regretting their deeds and come under amnesty. He mentioned the remarks made by the Vatican's representative in Iran after the latter had visited Evin Prison and said: The Vatican's representative has announced that the atmosphere prevailing in that prison was sincere and cordial and he appreciated this point. The spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council noted in conclusion that the process of the state's judicial system is moving toward implementing divine laws to protect the [word indistinct] and in this connection, he warned those who forge the names of institutions for their own benefit [as heard].

Ayatollahi, minister of mines and metals, was the next presermon speaker at today's Friday prayers in Tehran. In the course of his remarks, he described the situation in the country's mines and said: During the past 2 or 3 years, more than 13 mines have been discovered in the country and this ministry is in the process of carrying out research to equip and exploit these mines. The minister of mines and metals said in connection with the discovery of substantial gold reserves in various parts of the country that up to now we have achieved decisive results in some of these mines. Moreover, we are getting ready to establish a factory to extract gold. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the private and cooperative sectors will be more active with regard to the discovery of mines.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

*LD192306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1530 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, spokesman for and member of the Council of Guardians, in Tehran on 19 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In this sermon I will engage in a debate on several topics, one of which is a fundamental topic to which I will devote most of the time. [passage omitted] We learned from the second letter which his holiness the imam, may his shadow continue, wrote to the honorable president in connection with the extent of the powers of the velayat-e faqih that his holiness the imam intends to have this debate covered extensively for all strata of society. It is right that our people should learn about this important and valuable.

This debate can be divided into three parts. Two parts of this debate are not really suitable for the kind of debates which we raise in forums like the Friday prayers. One is a technical debate from the technical viewpoint in jurisprudence; the other involves the delicate task of legislation where, with very effective instruments, we can use them for our work. These two topics concern the scientific circles. However, the topic which concerns all strata of society, whether the learned or the laity, is the necessity of discussing the practice left to us as legacy by the prophet, peace be on him, and the immaculate imams—especially the Lord of the faithful. Thus we must see how they faced up to social problems, how, and with what kind of measures, they used to solve the problems of society.

Of course, the first and second topics—that is, the technical-theological points—have been covered in many books. The theologians have written about them, and this is how it should be. Our gracious imam has also tackled these topics in several points of theology. He has asked the question of whether or not Islamic society wants an Islamic government during the period of the long absence. If Islamic society wants to have a government during a period of long absence, if it intends to establish an Islamic government, then the only alternative is to establish that government on the basis of powers that were bestowed on the prophet and the immaculate imams in the text of the Islamic jurisprudence. These powers are bestowed on the prophet and the immaculate imams so that they can administer society, that is, what concerns the administration of the country, improvement of society, and the progress of Islam is the same for the prophet and the immaculate imam or for the fully qualified jurisconsult. There is no difference in this regard between the prophet and the immaculate imam on one side, and the fully qualified jurisconsult during the period of the long absence.

Of course, there is a difference in other ways. However, regarding this dimension—that is, the leadership of society, the governing of an Islamic country, and the management of an Islamic country—we believe that the Islamic government during the period of the long absence is the logical conclusion of the government of the infallible ones. It is from this point of view that the question of governorship, leadership, and administration of the society must be placed under the control of a human being who is fully versed in Islam, who is just, intelligent, and ultimately, fully qualified. This appears to be a very clear point, although, in the past, for some of the great personalities of our religion this point did not appear to be explicit.

The reason why it was not clear then, I believe, is that our theologians of the past could never imagine that one day the government might fall into the hands of a fully qualified jurisconsult. Otherwise, if they had thought that one day this would happen, then they would have done some research. They would have accomplished the task of explaining meticulously all the dimensions of Islamic rule and the vice regency of the jurisconsult. This was not accomplished for this very reason; they had given up hope that an Islamic government might fall into the hands of the ulema of Islam and those who were fully versed in Islamic tenets and those who were jurisconsults.

Therefore, some ulema did not fully elaborate on it. However, the question is quite clear, as far as our records and arguments are concerned. Some of the great theologians have expounded on it very well; and better than everybody else our own gracious imam, may his shadow continue, has expounded on this question. I do not believe it is very useful to talk here and now about this question on technical and theological points, as well as the delicate issues of legislation. What I deem to be useful here is to recount pieces of history on what was being done at specific periods of time. [passage omitted]

The prophet said once: If I knew that this had been given by someone who left his children orphans after giving up his wealth and being left penniless, whose offspring had to be cared for by society, I might not have departed. That was viewed as an evil deed. He should have seen to it that his offspring were not left destitute. The point I am trying to explain that the exalted prophet had no recourse other than to the concept of Islamic Government and the rule of God in order to deal with this problem. This man was wealthy and had given up his wealth.

You and I have no right to say that he should have taken back part of his wealth, and the rest could remain with whomever received it. The exalted prophet sees fit that a poor child is left behind without any guardian or resources, just as a vice regent and jurisconsult sees fit that a problem can be resolved by judging that some part of the wealth can be taken back and the rest given away. This foresight was witnessed in the age of the prophet. [passage omitted]

The comment made by our lofty imam that the rule is one of the first decrees, and that its manifestations and followers are exactly like other Islamic edicts and come before other, lesser decrees and edicts is actually in line with the above point. That is, if Islamic rule is not implemented and authority is not used, the task will not be done. The Islamic society and the country reach an impasse. Therefore, the purpose of the vice regency is to resolve problems, to resolve difficult problems and save the country from an impasse. [passage omitted]

The point I am now trying to clarify is that of a debate about priority and not conflict, about what is most important. Who should judge this except the regent, the prophet, or the immaculate imam, a ruler who is present during the long absence and who acts as vice regent, unless this is done by a group of people who enjoy trust? These people will take charge to set priorities for you. [passage omitted] They decide what contributes to the independence of the country and who will resolve the problems. Our imam demonstrated foresight when he emphasized the sharp edge should serve the oppressed, the meek, and the afflicted. [passage omitted]

Foresight should be kept in mind when dealing with the correct approach to the whole country and Islamic society. Therefore, the vice regency of jurisconsult is rule by the most important in the country, by whoever has the just, right, and pious qualifications demanded by the country. It is rule by one who saves the country from crises. This is linked to the rule of God, the prophet and the imam, and is not linked to the rule of the tyrant. Thus, when we come across some mention of rule in connection with tyrants and dictators, it is just the opposite of what I have talked about. [passage omitted] The rule of the tyrant and tyranny is the rule of oppression, self-worship, egotism, treason, and crimes against people, and the disregard of the correct path for human beings. The rule of God, the prophet, and the imam, and the rule of jurisconsult during the period of absence is that of the rule of God and His pleasure, and of Islam, correctness, justice, right, and the rule of human virtues. [passage omitted]

This debate will provide the basics for the Islamic rule of society in the world. Schools of capitalism and Marxism have problems and dilemmas, while the Islamic rule, enjoying the brilliant edicts of Islam, proceeds to untangle Gordian knots using the foresight of the ruler. In fact, Islamic rule can rule the world while enjoying power wherever Islamic power exists. [passage omitted] The importance of this will be seen in the future. This has eradicated theological differences and variations in theological interpretations as applied to economics within the country. Of course, differences of style and political views exist but this should not be. [passage omitted]

This step was taken out of necessity, but others should be taken in the spirit of Islam, particularly as elections are approaching. Our glorious nation and our candidates and their supporters should model themselves on the selfless ones at the warfronts by walking along the path of sincerity and by serving whether elected or not, and by not feeling heavily burdened. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Receives Lebanese Muslim Leader

LD201829 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—Vice-chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly of Lebanon Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din met President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i here today and briefed him on the latest political, economic and social situation in Lebanon.

Shams al-Din, referring to the situation of the Lebanese Muslims particularly the Shi'ites, thanked the Islamic Republic for its financial and spiritual assistance for Lebanon.

President Khamene'i in reply reiterated firm support of the Islamic Republic for the struggles of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims and stressed on the the role Muslims should play in Lebanon.

Reportage on Visit of Pakistan's Abdus Sattar

To Discuss Afghanistan

LD201141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar arrived in Tehran last night. In the first round of his talks with our country's deputy foreign minister bilateral relations and regional issues of interest to the two countries were reviewed and discussed. In this meeting Abdus Sattar described in detail the latest developments on the Afghan question, saying: The Government of Pakistan would like to exchange views with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Afghan issue. He added that Pakistan is worried that even if an agreement is signed with the Kabul regime, the Afghan problem will not be resolved and the civil war will continue.

Mr Besharati also said that he considers that developments in Afghanistan are very important from the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adding: The Islamic Republic of Iran is closely following events in the Muslim country of Afghanistan. He stressed the need to support the Afghan mujahidin, saying: How can a regime that has caused the massacre and injury of more than 1 million Muslim people of Afghanistan be granted a role in the future of Afghanistan? Pakistan and Iran should not allow the United States to have a greater role in the future of Afghanistan than the Afghan people. Pakistan and Iran should not be endangered as a consequence of the aggression of another superpower.

In conclusion, Abdus Sattar reportedly exchanged views and discussed the latest international developments the Afghan question and issues of mutual interest with Mr Larijani.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD201725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Abdus Sattar, the Pakistani deputy foreign minister, met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon.

During the meeting Abdus Sattar submitted a comprehensive report on mutual relations and the latest developments in Afghanistan. He said: The Pakistani Government has asked me to inform the Iranian authorities of the discussions held on the Afghanistan issue. He added: Pakistan believes that if an interim government is not established to replace the present government during the Soviet forces' withdrawal, the bloodshed in Afghanistan will continue.

Emphasizing the friendly relations between Iran and Pakistan, Mr Velayati said: Afghanistan is important to both countries. In our opinion, the mujahidin must play the principal role in any decisions made on Afghanistan. No agreement can be implemented without the consent of the immigrants and the mujahidin, who are in Pakistan and Iran.

He added: The superpowers want to make Afghanistan an issue between them but the Americans have no part or power in Afghanistan. It is the mujahidin and the people of Afghanistan who have fought against the occupation of their country for 8 years. This is the major factor in the decision of the responsible parties to leave Afghanistan.

Holds Talks With Khamene'i

LD212217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] In a meeting with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on Sunday afternoon, Mr Abdus Sattar, the deputy foreign minister of Pakistan, emphasizing the respect the Pakistani leader feels for the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave a detailed report on the latest developments in the Afghan situation.

Referring to ambiguities in the plans recently proposed on the Afghanistan issue, Mr Abdus Sattar said: We are confident that if freedom and independence are ensured for Afghanistan, both Iran and Pakistan, as the countries that carry the burden of the Afghan refugees and immigrants, would welcome proper solutions. The Afghan people want a government that meets with their approval and that will safeguard their hopes for the future of their country.

Then President Khamene'i said: The close and deep ties among the three nations of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan require us to make special attempts to decide the future destiny of our Muslim brothers in Afghanistan. He added: The most qualified source for deciding the future of Afghanistan is the Afghan mujahidin, who have a profound influence and base among the people of that country and who are the true spokesmen of the Afghan people. Fortunately, with the strong and firm administration and organization they have inside Afghanistan, as well as in Iran and Pakistan, they have proved their decisive role.

Emphasizing the necessity of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan as soon as possible on the announced date, the president said: Any plan that might entail the interference of the big powers and the nonparticipation of the people of Afghanistan and that country's neighbors will certainly be unsuccessful and futile.

Khamene'i, Musavi Talks Detailed

LD221011 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday evening received visiting Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar. Present in the meeting were acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and ambassadors of the both countries.

Conveying warm greetings of President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan and his respect for the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Abdus Sattar briefed President Khamene'i on latest developments on Afghanistan issue.

He said that both Iran and Pakistan have shouldered the burden of Afghan refugees and would certainly welcome any initiative which should ensure freedom of Afghans and independence their country [as received].

President Khamene'i said Pakistan and Iran have long borders with Afghanistan and that the potential role for solving the crisis in the latter country may not be overlooked. In the light of deep rooted ties between the three nations, he said Iran and Pakistan are obviously concerned about the future of the Afghans.

The president stressed that Soviet troops must pull out from Afghanistan. The later they pull out, the graver the consequences of their stay. He also touched on common views of Iran and Pakistan towards Afghanistan and said that the Afghan Muslim mujahidin play a key role in future of the country. He added that the mujahidin are the true spokesmen for the Afghans.

President Khamane'i expressed hope that upon the Soviets' pull-out the mujahidin and the refugees will return to their homeland.

The president asked Abdus Sattar who arrived here Saturday to convey his greetings to his Pakistani counterpart.

The Afghanistan issue was also raised in a meeting between Abdus Sattar and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Sunday evening.

The Pakistani official said that peace will not return to Afghanistan unless aspirations of the mujahidin are fulfilled.

Afghan refugees living in Iran and Pakistan, he added, will return to their country only after the ouster of the ruling government in that country.

The prime minister said that the present time is very fateful for the Afghans. He described the mujahidin as the principal forces in the struggle of the Afghans against the Soviet protege government and noted that they will be the determining forces in the political future of that country.

He called for a speedy pull out by the Soviets and said that an early withdrawal would be in the very interest of the Soviets themselves, and a great help to Afghans.

Sunnis Protest 'Anti-Islamic Moves' in Pakistan

LD211144 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Feb. 21, IRNA—A group of prominent Sunni ulema of Pakistan in a gathering in Gujranwala Saturday expressed concern over suspicious and anti-Islamic moves of Wahhabism in Pakistan.

Shah Ahmad Nourani [name as received], leader of the society of Pakistan's ulema and Mawlana Abdul Sattar Nyazi [name as received] a prominent Sunni alim addressing the gathering strongly condemned anti-Islamic policies of the Hijaz [Saudi] regime.

On activities of Wahhabite in Pakistan Shah Ahmad Nourani said that Arab money is funneled to Pakistan for promotion of Wahhabism and is put at the disposal of Wahhabite mercenaries. Hijaz and Kuwait he added are spending huge sums of money to impose their reactionary views on Pakistan, he added.

Mawlana Nyazi in a speech said that in the absence of a correct Islamic ideology in Hijaz the Islamic system will not be able to implement its programs in that country.

Other speakers also called for termination of influence of Wahhabites in Pakistan and an end to their efforts for diverting the true Islam in Pakistan from its right course.

The gathering was held at a time when the Hijaz minister of pilgrimage and religious trust is visiting Pakistan who submitted a message from King Fahd to President Ziaul Haq.

During the meeting President Ziaul Haq is said to have thanked King Fahd for establishing new facilities for pilgrims and a new center for Pakistani Muslims. The Hijaz minister has also met with Pakistani prime minister.

Commentary on Kabul's 'Major Political Crisis'

LD201456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Commentary: "Political Developments Concerning the Afghan Issue"]

[Text] While Afghanistan's Muslim revolutionaries intensify and extend their activities in major cities including Kabul, political maneuvering over the Afghan issue has assumed new dimensions. As the next round of reconciliation talks on the Afghan issue approaches, the maneuvering is intensifying.

At the same time, reports achieved from Afghanistan show that a major political crisis has developed within the Kabul regime. In just 2 months, there have been three unsuccessful armed attacks against Najibullah, head of Kabul's regime. According to informed sources, political crises in the structure of Kabul's Marxist government, which had so far arisen from differences between the Khalq and Parcham parties, have now changed into internal differences and factionalism within the organization of Parcham, which is Najibullah's party.

The revelation of such reports about the internal changes of the ruling party is tantamount to a admission of defeat in the face of the intensification of the liberation operations of Afghanistan's Muslim revolutionaries and of divisions within the ranks of Marxist and allied agents. Not only have they not succeeded in imposing their rule over the limited urban areas including the capital, but, in addition, all the intrigues of world arrogance and its unflinching support, at the price of making deals over the fate of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan in their own country, have not succeeded in providing a basis for securing the foundation of that regime.

The 10th round of reconciliation talks on the Afghan issue, which is due to start in Geneva in the form of indirect talks between Islamabad and Kabul on 2 March, is already faced with difficulties and doubts because of the lack of participation by the real representatives of the Afghan people in these talks on the one hand, and the lack of legitimacy of the Kabul regime, which has been strongly rejected by the revolutionary and mujahidin Muslims of Afghanistan on the other.

At the moment, despite the preparations for the new round of negotiations and the arrangements that are being made in this connection, the new round of talks is facing a major difficulty with regard to its most important point, that is, reconciliation between competing factions for the purpose of forming a coalition government following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. This is happening despite the optimism being expressed about an agreement on drawing up a timetable for the phased withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Under such conditions, the Muslim nation of Afghanistan has continuously declared in the course of its struggles for liberations that it will fight for the right to determine its own fate until the last man of the occupying forces has left their Islamic land. The Muslim people of that country in the last 8 years have shown in practice by offering hundreds of thousands of martyrs that the continuation of their relentless battle against the occupying forces is the main motivating factor behind the possible withdrawal of the aggressors from Afghanistan. For this reason, the future of Afghanistan will be determined by the mujahidin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan who have in the last years resisted this aggression.

Turkish Minister, Roads Minister Meet in Tabriz

NC200627 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Seyyed Kya, minister of roads and transport, who had visited Turkey at the head of a delegation, arrived in Tabriz yesterday afternoon accompanied by

Mr Ekrem Pakdemirli, Turkish minister of transportation and communications [title as heard], and a Turkish delegation.

In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, the Turkish minister of transportation and communications referred to both sides' talks on solving transportation problems between the two countries and expressed the hope that commercial and social relations will be further improved as a result of the memorandum of understanding which will be signed in Tabriz today.

Mr Seyyed Kya also referred to the two countries' meeting and to the talks held in Van, Turkey, which will be continued in Tabriz. He expressed the hope that bilateral cooperation will improve in the transportation field.

Transportation Agreement Signed

LD201603 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tabriz, Azarbayjan-e Khavari Prov., Feb. 20, IRNA—Iran and Turkey today signed a letter of understanding, giving a noticeable boost to their mutual cooperation in the field of transportation via sea ports and railways.

According to the agreement, signed by visiting Turkish Minister of Communications Ekrem Pakdemirli and Iranian Roads and Transportation Minister Mohammad Seyyed Kya, the commodities to be transfered to Iran via Turkish ports and railways annually, will be increased to 800,000 tons. The agreement also envisages a 25 to 50 percent discount for goods to be transported to Iran via Turkish ports and railways.

In an interview with IRNA, Pakdemirli said the signing of the letter of understanding will serve to bring the two friendly Muslim peoples of Iran and Turkey closer and also expand bilateral cooperation.

In response, Seyyed Kya described as "positive" the outcome of his talks with the Turkish delegation in Van in eastern Turkey and also in this northwestern Iranian city, which led to the signing of the letter of understanding.

It was also agreed that Iranian and Turkish railways officials would meet in Van every six months to supervise the implementation of the letter of the understanding, concluded Seyyed Kya.

Letters of Understanding Signed With Bulgaria

LD192110 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA—Visiting Bulgarian Minister of Heavy Industries [title as received] Ognyan Doynov and his entourage left Tehran for Sofia Friday after a week-long visit to Iran. They were seen off by Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi.

Two letters of understanding were inked between the two countries' officials before the Bulgarian delegation's departure.

Minutes before his departure, Doynov considered the fulfilled talks as "very positive". Important agreements concluded during the Bulgarian delegation's visit will be useful for expansion of Tehran-Sofia commercial and industrial ties, he pointed out.

Doynov said it was decided that Bulgaria buy non-oil products from Iran's heavy industries sector in 1989 totalling dlrs. 40 million.

Pointing to an agreement concluded on Iran-Bulgaria joint manufacturing of industrial products and offering them to other countries, he said positive talks were held on further import of cars, some road construction machinery, industrial tools and moulding parts on the part of Bulgaria.

On his talks with Iranian Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Doynov said talks were held at the meeting on purchase of Iranian agricultural products by Bulgaria.

He concluded by predicting that the two countries' economic relations would improve due to bilateral interests.

Iranian minister Nabavi also said a letter of understanding was signed between the two countries' heavy industries ministers on Tehran-Sofia cooperation in various fields. Another letter, he went on, was inked between the deputy heavy industries ministers of Iran and Bulgaria for extending previous letters of understanding.

The Bulgarian delegation was the biggest industrial one so far visiting Iran, he said adding "this proves the importance Bulgaria attaches to Iran's industrial progress."

Iranian deputy heavy industries minister Mr. Safe'i who also saw off the delegation expressed hope that Iran and Bulgaria would conclude agreemennts on joint manufacturing of road construction machinery, trucks and light tools during the fifth session of Iran-Bulgaria joint commission to be held in May.

Safe'i said some 5,000 Renault automobiles will be exported to Bulgaria next year, once existing issues are solved.

7 'Network' Members Receive Death Sentence

LD211703 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] In today's session of the Supreme Judicial Council, the representatives of the Supreme Judicial Council on the supervisory council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a report on the work of that council and were given certain guidelines.

In this session, the files of seven members of a hypocritical, warring, and corrupt minigroup who were members of the network and who were given the task by the Iraqi intelligence organization to plant bombs inside Iran were discussed and their sentences of execution, which had been confirmed by the Higher Islamic Revolution Court, were approved. Orders were issued for their execution. Those individuals had transported a large quantity of explosives from Iraq to Iran and placed them in a car parked in Ferdowsi Square in Tehran. In the resulting explosion a number of people were martyred or wounded.

Iraqi Foreign Debts Increase Due to War

LD210632 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] London, Feb. 21, IRNA—The debt-ridden regime of Saddam Husayn has been bartering with its oil reserves to delay repayments of its ever-rising war debts, which it seemingly has no hopes of meeting.

Iraq's foreign debts last year were estimated to have risen to over $100 billion and according to SOUTH magazine, cash is still in short supply and is resulting in many migrant workers now leaving the country as soon as their contracts are up.

"The days of handouts and contracts paid in advance are over," it said and quoted one diplomat in Baghdad saying that the consequences of war had "changed thinking and humbled the arrogance of people in high places."

The monthly reported that the regime has virtually rescheduled the whole of its Western and Arab debt, which it grossly underestimated at "$57 billion or more" and additionally is negotiating its unknown Soviet debt "in the form of barter and against oil in the ground."

In its strive to ease the overburdening financial crises, it said that Iraq was pinning its hopes on moving towards a more capitalist system and young technocrats, mostly trained in the West and largely from Saddam's own secretariat, were being brought in.

The magazine was not optimistic that the move will succeed as "Iraq is by no means over its difficulties" and said "despite drastic cuts, imports totalled $8 billion in 1986 and rose further last year."

It went on to describe that queues outside state shops were still common and said the problems of shortages were being aggravated by people stockpiling as soon as basic items appeared on the market.

The MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST spoke of the Iraqi regime using up almost all of its $680 million 3-year and 7-year U.S. credit guarantees in the fiscal year ending September 30, 1987 and was expected to get another $1 billion worth of agricultural products on credits from Washington this year.

The U.S., it suggested, was not only furnishing a 35 per cent increase in the amount of credit but at easier terms, which American banking circles considered too generous and "leaving it highly exposed to Iraqi risk."

Nation's Reserves in Foreign Banks Increase

LD210536 Tehran IRNA in English 0531 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] London, Feb. 21, IRNA—Iran's foreign exchange holdings in banks abroad continued to strengthen in the third quarter of last year, according to figures from the Bank of International settlements.

The latest figures show Iran's overseas deposits rising by $42 million in the three months ending September 30, 1987 and have now increased by $409 million since the beginning of the year to $5.39 billion.

The Basle-based bank bases its calculations on most banks and financial institutions that are thought to handle Iran's funds and is seen as providing the best indication the Islamic Republic's reserves held abroad.

According to the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST, the improved showing by Iran is thought to be attributed largely to increased oil revenues following firmer prices and estimates income from oil could total up to $10 billion in 1987 compared with $6.6 billion in 1986.

Iran uniquely is believed to be the only country which has no foreign debts and the magazine quotes Western experts suggesting that Iran's oil exports continued to be buoyant in the last quarter of 1987, in spite of the U.S. embargo, and could have been as high as 2.1 million barrels a day.

How this may add to Iran's foreign holdings, it does not speculate, but implies that some may have been used to further boost military supplies.

'Fajr' Aircraft Test Reportedly Successful

LD221059 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Fajr aircraft, the first aircraft manufactured in Iran—manufactured by the expert personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps—this morning carried out its test flight with complete success. All stages of planning and manufacturing the complex parts and equipment in this aircraft were carried out by the air industires project of the IRGC Ministry. In addition to its main functions, the Fajr aircraft also has a military use. With the successful completion of its test flight, planning for its mass production has started. With the manufacture of this aircraft, in addition to the fact that the needs of the war fronts for this kind of aircraft will be completely satisfied, more than $500,000 [figure as heard] of foreign exchange will also be saved.

It should be added that the air industries project of the IRGC Ministry has started work on a number of other types of aircraft which will come into production in the near future.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,117

LD191546 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA—Islamic Republic's Navy Thursday intercepted five foreign trade ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to continue voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

Announcing the above, the 3117th Joint Staff Command Communique said exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire raged on in north-western, western, and southern fronts being somewhat more intense in Khushk and Chazabeh.

The communique said ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran shelled Iraqi positions, fortifications, and vehicle columns, killing and wounding some Ba'thist forces. Parts of Iraqi forces' defence positions were destroyed and their activities brought to a halt in the shellings, it added.

Iraqi engineerring activities in Helaleh were subjected to Muslim combatants' heavy fire and checked, said the communique.

An Iraqi patrol group Thursday attempted to approach Muslim combatants' positions in Nahr 'Anbar, but were forced to flee by Iranian fire, it added.

The communique further said Iraqi tanks activities were halted in Yebis and Panjwin by heavy fire of the Iranian combatants.

Iran's gendarmerie forces destroyed an Iraqi observation post killing the Ba'thists in it, said the communique concluding that enemy engineering activites and movements of Iraqi vehicles were also checked.

Communique No 3,118

LD201717 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—Iran's naval forces intercepted eight foreign trade ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz over Friday and Saturday, but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard, said the daily joint staff command communique here today.

Communique 3118 added that Iranian air force planes effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman over the same period, providing excellent support to the Navy's operations, despite a warning by a foreign ship.

On the warfronts, continued the communique, exchange of fire raged in all sectors yesterday being somewhat more intense in Kushk and Zayd regions in the southern fronts. Muslim combatants, it added, opened fire at Iraqi Ba'thists patrols in Chananeh region inflicting damage and casualties, and in the Hoseyniyeh region forced an Iraqi patrol group to flee.

Armoured units of the muslim combatants silenced Iraqi tank fire in Halaleh and Yebis Friday, foiling enemy attempts to bring up tanks in the western operational region, said the communique.

Movement of Iraqi light and heavy vehicles was brought to a halt in Sumar, Naft-e Shah, Kani-Sheykh, Nahr 'Anbar, Chuman-Mostafa and Hemad Shahab axes. Heavy damage was inflicted on the enemy, it said. In Helaleh, Nahr 'Anbar, Yebis and Tib, the communique said, engineering activities of Iraqi forces in repairing roads, digging canals and setting up embankments was disrupted by the Muslim forces of Iran. Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties, it added.

Iran's gendarmerie forces subjected Iraqi positions to their fire destroying at least five bunkers and killing and wounding several Ba'thist troops, it concluded.

Communique No 3,119

LD211709 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in borders areas overlooking Faqqeh, southern fronts at 08:25 hours local time Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy. All fighters returned safely to bases, according to a military communique hre today.

The 3119th Joint Staff communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday.

Four Iraqi warplanes attempting to violate the airspace of Iran's Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf at 11:40 hours yesterday, were repelled by anti-aircraft batteries stationed there, it added.

Iran's coastal artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on six Iraqi vessels in the narrow Khawr 'Abdallah waterway which separates Kuwait from the war zone, forcing them to flee at 21:00 hours local time yesterday.

Meanwhile, Iran's Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire throughout the battlefields Saturday, inflicting considerable losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

In Panjwin, Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and western sectors, Iraqi tanks suffered heavy losses when hit by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Iran's Muslim forces also checked Iraqi engineering operations in Anjireh, Yebis and Nahr 'Anbar, southern and western sectors, yesterday, inflicting losses on a number of heavy enemy engineering vehicles.

An Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Chazabeh, southern fronts Saturday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire, concluded the communique.

Kurds Kill Officers in Baghdad

LD211133 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA—Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas killed two Ba'thist security officers in Baghdad last week. The two were among those who massacred and suppressed Kurdish people of northern Iraq.

Announcing the above, the temporary secretariat of Iraqi people's cooperation conference said the two officers Captain Ghanem and 1st Lieutenant Kheirollah [names as received] aided in numeorus murders of Iraq's Kurdish villagers.

Communique No 3,120

LD221742 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intetcepted and inspected four cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for the Iraqi regime, according to a military communique here Monday.

The 3120th joint staff communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively lent support to the Navy yesterday by reconnoitering positions of foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

At the northern tip of the Persian Gulf Iranian naval forces forced six Iraqi vessels to flee from Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms.

Meanwhile on the war fronts Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and vehicle columns throughout the battlefields yesterday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

An Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Panjwin, northwestern sector, yesterday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee by heavy artillery fire.

On Sunday, Iranian gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops.

Iraqi forces suffered heavy casualties and losses when Iranian artillery fire shelled enemy tank squadrons in Helaleh, Panjwin and Eynkhosh yesterday.

Heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in Panjwin and Meymak Sunday, killing a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying two heavy engineering vehicles of theirs.

Movement of Iraqi vehcile columns in Chuman-Mostafa and Qasr-e Shirin, western and central fronts, was checked by iranian artillery fire Sunday, concluded the communique

Pakistan

Junejo Comments on Afghanistan, Kashmir

BK211605 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has underlined the need for creating an atmosphere inside Afghanistan that will ensure the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland in honor and dignity. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Sibi from Islamabad this evening, the prime minister said the establishment of an interim government in Afghanistan is an issue which must be settled by the Afghan people themselves.

Answering a question, he said Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan has always been clear and unambiguous and there has been no change in Islamabad's position in this regard.

The prime minister said the Geneva proximity talks are entering a very crucial phase. The next round of these talks is scheduled to begin on 2 March, and the Pakistani delegation will reach Geneva by 29 February or 1st March for these talks. We should have a positive outlook on the results of these negotiations, the prime minister added.

Answering another question, Mohammad Khan Junejo said the Kashmir issue must be settled in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and under the Simla Agreement. Any contrary statement made by anyone in this regard can never alter the facts.

Soon after his arrival in Sibi, the prime minister met with a number of people there.

Zain Noorani Returns From U.S, UK Visits

*BK201608 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Feb 88*

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has reaffirmed that Pakistan will remain committed to the instruments agreed upon at the Geneva talks on the Afghan issue.

Talking to newsmen today at the Islamabad airport on his return from visits to the United States and the United Kingdom, he said that we are not attempting to circumvent these instruments. He stressed the need for an interim government in Afghanistan along with the Soviet troop withdrawal. He said a very bloody civil war will begin in Afghanistan if an interim government is not established and if conditions conducive to the return of the Afghan refugees are not established. Rather, it is feared that more and more Afghans will be forced to seek shelter in Pakistan. He recalled that efforts have been made during the last year to form a coalition government and that considerable progress was made during [UN secretary general's representative] Cordovez's recent shuttle visits between Pakistan and Kabul. He said such a coalition government can indeed be formed before 15 May this year, the date set by the Soviet Union for the start of its troops withdrawal.

The minister of state for foreign affairs refuted reports that Pakistan wants a delay in the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. He said it has never been Pakistan's desire to have any delay in the Soviet pullout. Withdrawal of Soviet forces is of primary concern to Pakistan, he added. It is imperative that the Soviet troop withdrawal is conducted according to the program outlined by the Soviet Union and that a situation of peace and security is established in Afghanistan in order to facilitate the return of 3 million Afghan refugees to their homeland from Pakistan with dignity and honor.

About his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and UK Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, Zain Noorani said that they understand Pakistan's viewpoint and support it. He expressed the hope that during talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow, Shultz will bring up this issue, in addition to other important matters.

Leaves for Beijing 21 Feb

*BK211211 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 21 Feb 88*

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has underlined the importance of creating conditions of peace and security within Afghanistan to enable 3 million Afghan refugees to return to their homes with dignity. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport today before leaving for Beijing on a 2-day visit. He pointed out that Pakistan has to follow the twin objective approach covering the withdrawal of Soviet troops and establishment of a transitional government in Afghanistan to ensure congenial atmosphere for the return of refugees. If this is not done, he added, more Afghan refugees might be coming to Pakistan instead of going back.

Mr Zain Noorani said Pakistan is seeking cooperation of all friendly countries and the Soviet Union in creating conditions favorable for the return of the refugees.

Foreign Secretary Leaves for Talks in Iran

*BK191635 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar, left Karachi today for Tehran to brief the Iranian leaders on the latest developments on Afghanistan issue. His visit is part of the process of consultations undertaken by the Pakistani Government with its friends before the next round of proximity talks in Geneva early next month.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Commander Pays Farewell Visit to President

*BK210959 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0856 GMT 21 Feb 88*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—Overall Force Commander Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] General Deepinder Singh came on a farewell visit to Sri Lanka. He visited areas in the north and east and Colombo. He had an overall review of the situation.

In Colombo, he paid a farewell call on President Jayewardene along with High Commissioner J.N. Dixit on 21st February, 1988. Joint Operations Commander General Ranatunge was also present during the meeting.

President Jayewardene conveyed his appreciation for the role being played by the IPKF in stabilising the situation, stated a press release issued by the Indian High Commission in Colombo today.

IPKF Operations Against LTTE Continue

LTTE Boat Sunk

*BK191631 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Text] Five LTTE men have been killed and an equal number arrested during the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] operations near Batticaloa during the last 24 hours.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the PKF continued its operations to disarm LTTE men in the areas around the Batticaloa town when five local leaders of LTTE were arrested. One of their colleagues was killed in the action. Six rifles and some quantities of ammunition were seized.

Naval patrol boats of the PKF discovered a boat moving with four occupants south of Batticaloa. Naval helicopters fired warning shots to which the boat did not respond. It was sunk with the occupants who are are said have included an LTTE leader, Gandivan.

The spokesman said the search for arms and ammunition continued in the north. The PKF recovered nearly 7,000 rounds of ammunition during the last 24 hours. The operations are continuing in the Vavuniya area.

LTTE in 'Total Disarray'

BK200911 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0806 GMT 20 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 20 (LANKA PUWATH)—The LTTE, reported to be in total disarray and on the run in Batticaloa, has called off its civil disobedience campaign. Thirty one of its senior cadres have been captured. It has also issued handbills in the Batticaloa District informing the public of this decision. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH today that all government institutions were functioning with the exception of the law courts.

Further reports reaching LANKA PUWATH from Batticaloa state that virtually everywhere public indignation against the LTTE's civil disobedience campaign was high.

The senior LTTE cadres captured include Sitta, the Batticaloa town political leader, military wing leader Sabesan who committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule, Kingsley Wasanayagam, Francis and Zimbo. Reports from Batticaloa town stated that the LTTE cadres had lost contact with their leader Prabhakaran due to total communication collapse. Reports also stated that public pressure against the LTTE's boycott campaign was massive.

IPKF Actions Noted

BK201145 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1056 GMT 20 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 20 (LANKA PUWATH)—Terrorists attacked an Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) foot patrol Thursday at Pawakkudichenai Batticaloa. The troops returned fire killing one terrorist who was later identified as Suri, an active member of the LTTE, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

At Pesalai in the Mannar District LTTE terrorists killed Ousmand a Muslim, last Friday.

A joint security forces cordon and search operation yesterday resulted in the recovery of 2 lorries in the Oluvil jungle, in Batticaloa.

The Indian Peace Keeping Force in operations conducted in Beach Road, Jaffna, Friday apprehended 10 suspects who had arrived by boat. While eight of them were released after interrogation Michael Gallister alias Raju, reported to be a political area leader of Jaffna and Baladas his assistant were detained by the IPKF.

The Indian troops in search operations at Chulipuram in the Jaffna sector Friday recovered one 82-mm mortar with 16 bombs and 8 kgs of explosives.

At Urelu West the IPKF seized 15 improvised explosive devices (IED), 1 two inch mortar bomb, 15 anti personnel mines, 2 AK-47 magazines, 1 LMG magazine, 35 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 20 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 1 hand grenade and some flags and photographs. At Kopai the IPKF recovered 1250 rounds of 7.62, 1750 rounds of .30, 2245 rounds of 9mm, 1500 rounds of .22 ammunition and one hand grenade. At Tellipallai the Indian troops recovered 1 improvised explosive device (IED) and 2 hand grenades while at Nallur the IPKF recovered 1 IED and 5 kgs of explosives. At Navatkuli the IPKF recovered 1 anti personnel mine and at Udutturai the Indian troops recovered a boat which had been buried.

2 Soldiers Killed by Mine

BK210317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two IPKF personnel, including an officer, were killed in a mine blast in Trincomalee yesterday. Another person was injured. They were returning from their work when the incident occurred.

3 LTTE 'Militants' Caught

BK210949 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0926 GMT 21 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—The IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in search operations conducted in the Jaffna sector yesterday apprehended three LTTE militants at Thaleady, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. At Periyavilan the Indian forces apprehended one other terrorist named Gunaratnam. The sources said that interrogation is in progress.

The IPKF, on information received, recovered two motorcycles belonging to the LTTE, one a 125 cc and the other a 90 cc Super Cub motorcycle. On information received the IPKF recovered five walkie talkies and 15 hand grenades from a house at Nawali. At Gurunagar one militant surrendered to the IPKF. The Indian troops recovered 7 mortar bombs from a well at Mallakam and at Navatkuli the IPKF recovered 2 improvised explosive devices (IED).